



# Lode Parish Council

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

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

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## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

**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

**Also present:** Su Field, Clerk

**Members of public:** 1

### 1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present and introduced the new Clerk to the Council, Mrs Su Field. Discussion took place concerning a local bus route being introduced and advised that, following receipt of correspondence from Gt Wilbraham Parish Council, introductions would be facilitated for them to speak to Mr Jonathan Cook of the A2B group, the Vice Chair agreed to action.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

None received.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 4. Public Participation

The member of the public present just wished to observe the meeting.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

Confirmed as a correct record.

### 6. Finance Matters

Due to change in Clerks the opportunity has not arisen for a detailed budget to be prepared so discussions will be based on the previous financial year. Members of the Council will agree the precept request at the meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

All Cllrs have completed the relevant mandate forms for Barclays but no confirmation has been received from Barclays as to whether these have now been actioned. The Vice Chair will attend at the Newmarket Branch in order to ascertain the current situation. As soon as Barclays have confirmed that all Cllrs are now signatories the new Clerk will complete a mandate to be included on the account in order for the previous Clerk to be removed.

It was acknowledged that the banking arrangements with Barclays are not ideal for local government and the Clerk will investigate the transfer of accounts to Unity Trust Bank (a bank dealing with local authorities with the relevant expertise and understanding of local government financial law). This report will be provided to Cllrs during the forthcoming financial year for discussion.

Payments listed in the table below, discussed and approved.

J Giles	Salary & PAYE (Nov/Dec)	£400.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
S Field	Salary/PAYE & Home Working Allowance	£438.60	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
ECDC Trading	Grass Cutting and Strimming etc	£404.14 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Fassage Hall	Inv 1027 – Interview Hire	£12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Fassage Hall	Inv 1021 – Booking for Feb 2023	£24.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Wave	Overdue Account for Cemetery	£36.63	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery Works	£191.10	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
	<b>TOTAL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>£1,587.29 (inc VAT of £80.82)</b>	

The Chairman scrutinised all invoices and the current bank statement and it was AGREED that all payments should be authorised. Due to the current banking situation, the Clerk will request the RFO (former Clerk, J Giles) to process the payments.

Scribe accounting software is now in place and the Clerk will liaise with the provider to schedule training to ensure efficient use of the system. Because of changeover of Clerks a full budget report has not been produced so it was agreed that discussion about the precept for 2023-24 will be discussed at the meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**Action:** Clerk to look through finances and draw up a plan for the next budget to include things like capital expenditure and maintenance costs (ie playground equipment/repairs). A Microsoft Teams meeting to be arranged to have preliminary discussions prior to the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The Vice Chair is in receipt of approximately £300 which was raised from the jumble sale and this will be transferred to the Parish Council account via BACS. It was AGREED that these funds will be earmarked for costs in respect of the playground.

7. Planning Matters

None arising.

8. County Council Matters

Report from District and County Councillors replicated below for information:

**Report to Lode Parish Council – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**District Council**

Extraordinary Council Meeting

There is an extraordinary meeting of ECDC on 15<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the Council’s response to the Congestion Charge.

## **County Council**

### **20mph schemes**

Highways & Transport Committee have agreed the setting up of a 20mph scheme, with applications being accepted from February 2023. More details will be sent to Parish Clerks in the New Year.

### **Congestion Charging**

The consultation closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm, so if you haven't already voiced your opinions, then please do so. The congestion charge proposals, if they go ahead, will have a huge effect on travel into and around Cambridge. Opposition to the proposals continues to grow.

There is a meeting with the Director of Transport of GCP in Burwell on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Budget 23/24**

The County Council had an original budget gap of £28m, which they have reduced to £12m, but we are questioning the flatlining of some budgets, such as those within transport, which would mean a cut to services.

The Government Autumn statement gave Councils the ability to raise Council Tax by 5%, which gives us a worry that this may be the level that they wish to increase it by.

### **Buses**

There continues to be timetable issues with the number 11 and 12, which is causing issues to Bottisham Village College students as well as residents trying to get into Cambridge for work.

### **Lode Fen Road**

I welcome the outcome of the meeting held Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December and have received the update from Jonathan Clarke, which seems positive. I would like to praise Tessa Shrubbs for the hard work that she has put in to get this matter further.

The roadworks on Fen Road have now commenced by Highways Officers. They have also repaired the pothole in the road to the Cemetery.

## **9. District Council Matters**

Discussion took place as to the availability of fundings from the ECDC Community Infrastructure Fund (grant) for capital projects like playground equipment and the Clerk undertook to liaise with the relevant ECDC Officer, Lewis Bage.

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

### ***"District Councillors' Report for December***

#### ***GCP Consultation***

*There is a briefing session by zoom for Parish Councils on 8 December 6.00-7.30. To find and more and register, please visit:*

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2MqrbHtRN2UsQIWoymn0A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2MqrbHtRN2UsQIWoymn0A)

*There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council on 15 December to discuss the Council's response. Unfortunately, this was arranged at short notice and earlier than usual so we are not sure if we can rearrange our existing commitments and may not be able to attend.*

### **Advice Bus**

*The East Cambs Housing and Community Advice Team's Advice Bus will visit:*

*Burwell, Mandeville Hall every Thursday from 10.00am-12 noon.*

*Bottisham, Sports & Social Club every Thursday from 1.00pm-3.00pm*

*Unfortunately, after we sent this to the Parish magazines, we were told that the bus will not visit between 16 December and when visits restart in the New Year. Despite several attempts, I have not been given a date for when the visits will re start in the New Year.*

### **Operational Services**

*Reviewed the EC Street Scene Accounts and the Performance Reports for Waste & Street Cleansing Services for the period April to June 2022.*

*Agreed to delegate to the Planning Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of Operational Services Committee, to adopt additional entries to the East Cambridgeshire Register of Buildings of Local Interest.*

*Agreed revised Building Control Fees and Charges from January 2023.*

*Agreed a Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.*

*Agreed the Children and Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy.*

*Agreed several community grants.*

### **Finance and Assets Committee**

*Agreed:*

*(A) Acknowledges the global biodiversity emergency and the local impact this could have on the communities and businesses we serve.*

*(B) Adopts the Interim Nature Recovery Network for East Cambridgeshire (August 2022) attached at Appendix A to the submitted report, and asks the Corporate Management Team to ensure all future plans and strategies of this Council play their part, where appropriate, in helping to deliver the aims and recommendations within it.*

*(C) Endorses the Biodiversity Net Gain: East Cambridgeshire (November 2022), document attached at Appendix B to the submitted report, for the purpose of an interim working document Strategic Planning Manager EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL Finance & Assets Committee – 241122 Decision List PUBLIC prior to the implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain expected in late 2023.*

*Increased the Growth and Infrastructure Fund to £2,307,216 and gave several grants, including:*

*£250,000 to National Trust- Wicken Fen Burwell Lode Crossing*

*£105,000 to Bottisham Parish Council - Bottisham New Cemetery*

*And £700,000 to Stretham Parish Council - Stretham Community Hub plus CIL Funding allocation of up to £766,666. A total of nearly £1.5m for a project which a recent Parish Poll showed the village wanted paused until after the Parish Council Elections in May (by 2:1).*

## **Waste Collections**

*Having been delayed since Autumn, the annual delivery of black sacks has now started. Households will receive a roll of 52 sacks by 16th January 2023.*

*To allow the crews to enjoy a Christmas break, the collection dates will be changed across Christmas.*

*Collections due on Monday 26 December will be collected on Wednesday 28 December*

*Collections due on Tuesday 27 December will be collected on Thursday 29 December*

*Collections due on Monday 2 January will be collected on Wednesday 4 January*

*Collections due on Tuesday 3 January will be collected on Thursday 5 January*

*Collections due on Monday 9 January will be collected on Tuesday 10 January*

*Collections normally due on Tuesday 10 January will be collected on Wednesday 11 January*

*And finally... **Happy Christmas!***

### 10. Council Administration Matters

Scribe software – Clerk to organise full training.

Cemetery tour – organise for 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### 11. Environmental and Open Space Matters

Renovation of the playground – The Vice Chair has received a quote from Lloyd Clarke and it was agreed that it would be more cost effective to seed the relevant areas as opposed to turf. It was RESOLVED to instruct Lloyd Clarke to carry out the works quoted for.

It was agreed that the concrete under the horse should be removed.

In order to ensure the safety of the playground equipment, it was agreed that the monthly playground inspections would be reinstated and Cllr Ferdinando volunteered to take on this role. ROSPA inspections will continue to be done annually.

Plans need to be firmed up for additional equipment costs to be included in the budget forecast.

Update on Fen Road. The Vice Chair had met with County Officer and good progress had been made. Highways had also mended the Cemetery Road.

Cllr Walsh will continue to chase the local agricultural companies with a view to encouraging them to sign up to the highways covenant on roads.

### 12. Community Matters

Fassage Hall Update. One quote had been received in respect of renewal of the lights within the hall. It was agreed that, in terms of financial transparency, at least one more quote should be obtained in order for a comparison to be made to ensure value for money.

Clerk to write a letter to the FHC concerning the very high quote reiterating the need for at least one more and that these works should be looked at as part of a longer term plan as there are additional items that will require to be carried out and priorities must be considered in full. The Parish Council would very much like to have a meeting with FHC early in the New Year to discuss the long term energy plans etc for the Hall to ensure collaborative working.

Cambridge Fibre have now received the communication from Fields in Trust concerning the installation of a high speed fibre connection and they will provide an update to the Parish Council in due course.

13. Correspondence (for information only)

Date	From	Concerning
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	ECDC Street Naming	Fen Meadows
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	ECDC Planning	22/01240/FUL Decision Notice – approved.
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2022	Gt Wilbraham PC	GCP Making Connections 22 Consultation
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Cllr Charlotte Cane	District Councillors Report for November 2022

14. Communications

None other than those listed in the table above.

15. Items for next agenda

Precept Request

Playground plan.

Next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at Passage Hall.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_