

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 13**  
**January 2020**

These minutes comprise 3 pages

**Present:** Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, T Crickmar, R Small, C Purbrook; D/Cllr J Trapp, Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust), Mr M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch)

**1/20 Items from the public:** None

**2/20 Apologies:** None

**3/20 Co-option of Parish Councillor:** Clive Purbrook was proposed for co-option by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Crickmar. His co-option was unanimously approved by the Council following which he signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and formally joined the meeting. Cllr Stevens reported that, with regret, Cllr Fitzgerald has resigned from the Council because of the pressure from his other commitments. Members expressed their gratitude for his service on the Council

**4/20 Declarations of interest:** None

**5/20 Minutes of meeting 9 December 2019:** These were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair

**6/20 Matters arising:**

- **Highways issues:** C/Cllr Shuter had responded by email to queries raised with him in November. He advised that the County Council Local Highways Officer (Bob Rossiter) has stated that the land at Swan Corner is not owned by the County Council and is continuing to try and establish who does own it. While the footway damage to Church Walk and the Fassage Recreation Ground do not reach the “intervention levels” as set by the County Council, C/Cllr Shuter has requested the Highways Officer to continue monitoring the situation and explore whether the sites could be suitable for “Slurry Seal” treatment in the next financial year. The white lines through the village are faded and will be refreshed in the next financial year. With regard to the central line at Shrub Corner, Mr Rossiter will liaise with the Road Safety Team to establish an appropriate solution and update all parties accordingly. The Council requested the Clerk to remind the Highways team of its view that the willow tree at Swan Corner presents a risk to users of the highway, especially in high winds
- **Cycle Way maintenance:** There was no further response from C/Cllr Shuter regarding this issue following the discussion at the November meeting when it was identified that the parts of the Cycle Way behind the hedge need special equipment for their maintenance which are normally only used within the city boundary of Cambridge. The Clerk will ask him for an update
- **Eligibility of scheme to extend the pathway around Fassage Recreation Ground for centrally held CIL:** D/Cllr Trapp apologised that he had not had the opportunity to pursue this enquiry and will update the Council at the February meeting
- **Planning application 19/01470/OUT site S of 60 Longmeadow:** The Council noted that the Planning Committee had approved this application with detailed conditions to be met in order for full permission to be granted
- **Removal of saplings by the football pitch:** Considered under Fassage Green Management Plan below
- **Ashtons Legal Invoice:** Nothing further has been received following the queries over the bill raised by Lionel Johnson (Chair of Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust) on behalf of the Parish Council and the Trust

**7/20 County Council Report:** None

**8/20 District Council Report:** The report from D/Cllrs Trapp and Cane had been circulated to members of the Council. D/Cllr Trapp drew attention to the Bus Services Review Group which is promoting a survey to all residents in the area. He and D/Cllr Cane are setting up public meetings in the near future to seek ideas from residents. Cllr Small pointed out that the Parish Questionnaire had revealed strong demand for improved evening and weekend bus services from Lode and Longmeadow residents. He also pointed out that it appears to be more expensive to travel into Cambridge from the north east of Cambridge than from locations at a similar distance located to the south of the city.

Cllr Stevens pointed out that while highways are a County Council responsibility, maintaining footpaths involves the District Council. He suggested that a programme of sweeping paths following leaf fall would reduce the encroachment of grass over the path which substantially reduces the useable width

**9/20 Parish Reports:**

- **National Trust:** Ms Ingham-Watts reported that the Christmas season had been very successful: there were 80,000 visitors during the period and the management of parking had minimised the inconvenience to local people. She said that a dismantled shed had been stolen from Hoe Fen. A public consultation on the plans for Hoe Fen will take place in the late spring. The warmer than usual temperatures mean that the snowdrops are coming out earlier than usual so the parking management arrangements will be brought in sooner to smooth the flow of visitors. Cllr Stevens said that a query had been raised over the ownership of the Tennis Court: his understanding is that while the NT own the land the Court itself is owned by the Parish Council to whom it was given by Lord Fairhaven. Ms Ingham-Watts responded that this was her understanding as well: the question had arisen because of the lack of documents about this and she said that the Trust is seeking to ensure that these arrangements are formally documented where this has not previously been done

**10/20 Parish Council Reports:**

- **Parish Questionnaire:** Cllr Crickmar had circulated a graphical presentation of the responses to members of the Council. She suggested that the next stage might be to engage with local residents to identify any schemes where there was tangible support in the shape of volunteers from local residents. Cllr Small expressed appreciation for all the work done by Cllr Crickmar as it enhances the Council's engagement with local residents. While it was not straightforward to specify costs at this stage, he suggested that a sum of £500 would be enough to get a small scheme underway. After mention of a number of possible schemes, it was decided that the best way forward would be to hold an open meeting for residents to look at possible schemes and see which had sufficient support to proceed. (Dates were suggested and following the meeting the date of Saturday 7 March was identified). There was a suggestion of a more prominent noticeboard but Cllr Stevens pointed out that Lode falls in an area of Special Advertisement Control. He has cut the ivy back from the noticeboard near the Post Office to make it stand out more. Cllr Platten offered a picnic table which could be located on Passage Green; if it is placed on paving stones, this would facilitate mowing without the table having to be moved
- **Parish Council Budget 2020-21:** The Clerk advised that application for the 2020-21 precept needs to be made following the meeting. He outlined three options for the precept: the inflation linked increase to £15,680 as shown in the papers considered at the December meeting leading to a potential deficit of £816; £16,500 being a figure that would cover all planned expenditure without a deficit; or £17,000 which would provide for the additional £500 to allow for the development of a scheme arising from the public presenting the questionnaire findings. There was discussion of the appropriate level of reserves for a Parish Council and Cllr Stevens reported that recent advice had suggested a level of 1.5 times the precept. Recent local experience demonstrated the level of unforeseeable expenditure that can arise leaving reserves substantially depleted.

After careful deliberation, it was proposed that the Precept for 2020-21 be set at £16,500 with an amount of £500 being made available from the reserve to support a scheme identified from the Parish Questionnaire. In respect of Allotment fees, it was proposed that that notice should be given that these would be set at £20, £16 & £14 for full, half and quarter plots respectively when rents become due on 1 October. The motion to approve the new Allotment rents and the Precept was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Faulkner, and agreed unanimously

- **Finance Approvals:** The following items were approved for payment:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£169.16	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Aerating Passage Recreation Ground	£320+ VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wave (Anglian Water)	Cemetery	£28.80	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2	Passage Hall website renewal – paid by debit card to secure discount	£8.78+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

- **Cemetery:** Cllr Stevens reported that some of the more recent graves are showing signs of settlement. The Clerk confirmed that it was part of the role of the Caretaker to level the tops of graves as this occurs
- **Confirmation of attendance at the Local Highways Improvement Panel:** Cllrs Stevens and Platten will attend and present the case to support the application for the funding of a second speed indicator on 14 January
- **Passage Green Management Plan:** Within the context of the draft 5 year plan prepared earlier by Cllr Small, he presented a paper on the objectives and actions for year one. He proposed that it be used to initiate discussions between the Parish Council and LLVT. He has identified a list of one-off actions for year one as well a list of tasks that will need to be carried out annually. It was agreed that the removal of the thorny saplings at the side of the football pitch would be added as one of the actions for year one. Cllrs Small, Platten, Crickmar and Purbrook agreed to serve on the working group with LLVT to determine the plan for year one. One resident has proposed the development of a pitch for petanque. It was suggested that this might be taken up at the meeting to follow up the findings of the Parish Questionnaire on 7 March
- **Planning:** 18/01416/FUL 39 Longmeadow: The Council considered the revised application for the demolition of the existing building and its replacement with four dwellings. While it was regretted that the oldest building in Longmeadow would be demolished, it was felt that the revised design was more in keeping with the surrounding houses and has more resonance with the shape of the current building
- **Power for People:** Cllr Crickmar proposed that: “Lode Parish Council supports in principle the campaign promoted by Power for People in respect of the Local Electricity Bill”. This was agreed by the Council and the Clerk was asked to notify Power for People of the Council’s support

**10/20 Correspondence:** The Council noted the correspondence received and in particular the concerns raised with Cllr Faulkner about the way maize trailers are being driven through the village, as well as causing damage to verges. It is believed that this may arise from the actions of a tenant or their contractors who lease land on the fen. Cllr Platten will contact the landowner to try and determine who is responsible for these operations. In the meantime, Cllr Stevens advised that anyone concerned about dangerous driving should make a report directly to the Police

**11/20 Date of next meeting:** 10 February 2020 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

