



Lode Parish Council

Lode Parish Clerk, 41 Stow Road, Stow cum Quy, Cambs, CB25 9AD

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Chairman: Cllr Rob Small **Vice Chair:** Cllr Christina Ferdinando **Clerk:** S.Chambers-Turner

MINUTES OF LODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4

Held at Fassage Hall, Lode on 15th January 2024.

Present: Councillor Rob Small, Councillor Fran Platten, , Councillor Christina Ferdinando; Councillor Rima Page; Councillor Lucy Wells

In attendance:

District Councillor John Trapp; County Councillor Alan Sharp

5 Members of the Public

Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner

Meeting Opened at 7.30pm

49. CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Councillor Small opened the meeting.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

51. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

52. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Wells and resolved that the minutes from meeting 3 held on 11th December 2023 be approved and signed as a true record.

53. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public was present to discuss the following:

- Fassage Hall Management
- Events held in December down Fen Road
- Noticeboard erection
- MVAS data and Highways Officer

54. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- Correspondence about the recent licensed events at Lode Fen.
- 20pmh LHI application deadline.
 - Correspondence from the Lode Fete Organisers.
 - Correspondence from a resident relating to the Swaffham Greenway

55. FINANCES INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

a. The bank reconciliation for December was unavailable as the finances in the Barclays Account were unavailable therefore the bank cannot be reconciled.

b. To note receipts

Bank Interest £39.18

c. It was proposed by Councillor Ferdinando, seconded by Councillor Platten and resolved that January Accounts are to be paid. Action: Clerk to set payments up from the Unity Account.

Method	Payee	Item	Net	VAT	Total
Payments for Tonight's meeting:					
BACS	W Jaggard	Cemetery Maintenance	£183.78	£0.00	£183.78
BACS	Fassage Hall	Room Hire Litter Picking	£24.00	£0.00	£24.00
BACS	S Chambers-Turner	Clerks Salary			confidential
BACS	Freethought	Microsoft 365	£492.90	£98.58	£591.48
			£700.68	£98.58	£799.26

56. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

23/01294/FUL Visitors Centre and Restaurant, Anglesey Abbey, Quy Road, Lode.

Installation of a portable cabin for use as a bookshop for a temporary period of up to 5 years, native planting and installation of a permanent footpath to the main pathway. The Parish Council have no comments.

57. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor Sharp provided a report for the Council which included:

- The process for budgeting for the County Council is taking a different approach this year. It will be a top down, so each department will be allocated a proposed budget for which they will need to formulate their own budget from.
- A report is expected towards the end of January 2024 which would see potentially Highways looking to borrow some money to be able to carry out some necessary repairs.
- A report is also due on the weed spraying policy. A number of parishes have responded saying that they are happy with the current schedule. However, several parishes have expressed concern about the lack of weed clearance. It is suggested that the policy may be implemented on the opinions of the parishes accordingly.
- A consultation is currently being held on the proposed Combined Authority's Mayoral Precept increase to £36 per household which is a 200% increase.

District Councillors Cane and Trapp had provided a District report which was circulated prior to the meeting, which included:

- There have been no meetings since the December report. Unfortunately, this includes our planned meeting with Sanctuary, which was again postponed.
- The Finance & Assets Committee will meet later this month, where the main Agenda Item will be the Revenue Budget for 2024/25. This is the first opportunity to discuss the draft budget and therefore Council Tax before it is presented to Full Council in February for approval.
- The Operational Services Committee will meet at the end of the month. The main item on that Agenda will be the report on the review of East Cambs Street Scene to outline if and how ECSS will deliver the contracted level of service and bring the costs back within budget and therefore the agreed fee. The committee will also discuss the grant to the Newmarket Citizens Advice.

58. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

- a. It was noted that the Parish Council are running with two vacant seats and these should look to be filled as soon as possible by co-option. It was agreed that a notice of vacancy poster would be designed and placed in the noticeboard and on the website. It was also agreed that an advert would be drafted for the Lode Star. **Action:** *Councillor Ferdinando to prepare an advert.*
- b. Sam Chambers-Turner has been carrying out locum work for the Council since September 2023. The Parish Council have now formally appointed Sam as the permanent Clerk as from 8th January 2024.
- c. Councillor Ferdinando and Councillor Small had worked together to prepare an application to the Local Highways Initiative for 24/25. The Parish Council had previously been successful in winning a LHI contribution, which included the installation of dropped kerbs at the entrance to Abbey Lane and at Sunnyridge Farm. This application also saw the movement of the uncontrolled crossing on Lode Road past the bus stop to give greater visibility. Following a review by LHI officers, the Lode Road part of the project was costed and would require a significant co-contribution from the Parish Council which without additional support from other funding sources would not be viable. It was therefore at the suggestion of the Local Highways Officer for scheme that the project be broken down into smaller parts so that a greater contribution may be available from Cambridgeshire County Council (which is capped at £25,000). It was agreed that the current successful bid would be used to lower the kerbs in the village but not to implement the crossing point at Lode Road. The new application for 24/25 will be for the uncontrolled crossing point to be installed passed the bus stop area on Lode Road.
- d. The Parish Councils Action Plan for 24/25 needs to be prepared. **Action:** Councillor Small will review the current plan and start work on the 24/25 version.
- e. It had been previously discussed that the Parish Council wishes to digitise as many of their records as possible. It was agreed that Allotment and Burial software would be investigated. The Clerk has arranged for a demonstration from Scribe to be carried out in the next couple of weeks. The Clerk also reported that there was another company offering similar software solutions that it would be necessary to seek further quotations.

59. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACE MATTERS

- a. The Parish Council have been investigating upgrading some of the facilities in the playground. It was suggested that working group should be set up. An advert will be drafted and circulated seeking members. The Parish update in the Lode Star will also include details about the working group and its aims. **Action:** Councillor Wells to draft an advert and circulate.
- b. Previously the Parish Council raised that the tree at the entrance to Northfields had been damaged by the grass cutting and required attention. It was hoped that this would be repaired rather than a replacement. However, the tree has already been replaced but it is unclear at this stage with what species. **Action:** *Councillor Small to ascertain the species and report back.*

60. COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a. The Parish Council are currently seeking a meeting with the Fassage Hall Management Committee to discuss roles and responsibilities moving forward as the Parish Council are the Sole Trustees of the building. Currently the Management Committee is very low on members and will require more assistance to be able to carry out the functions that are necessary. **Action:** *Councillor Wells to arrange a meeting with the Fassage Hall Committee within the next two weeks.*

b. Correspondence had been received both to the Parish Council and the County Councillor about the events held at Sunnyridge Farm. Concern was raised over the licensing of the event and the lack of information from the ECDC Licensing team for such large events. According to Councillor Trapp a review meeting will be held by the Licensing team on 31st January to discuss issues raised. It was agreed that the Parish Council would prepare a written report for the Licensing team outlining the information received from residents.

61. COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Page will write the Lodestar update on behalf of the Parish Council.

62. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Any business and payments, to be considered at a Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

63. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Full Council Meeting, 12th February 2024, 7.30pm, Fassage Hall, Lode.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____