

**MINUTES OF LODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 28 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**Held at Fassage Hall, Lode.**

**Present:** Councillor Rima Page, Councillor Fran Platten, Councillor Sarah Barrett, Councillor Ellis Weinberger, Councillor Tessa Shrubbs (Proper Officer).

**In attendance:** District Councillor John Trapp, County Councillor Jonny Edge.

**Members of public:** 2

Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner (Apologies)

**Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.**

**409. CHAIRMANS WELCOME**

**Councillor Platten opened the meeting and welcomed those present.**

**410. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Sam Chambers-Turner

**411. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSTATION**

None

**412. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**It was proposed by Councillor Weinberger, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved by those present that the minutes of meeting 27 held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.**

**413. COMMUNICATIONS**

It was agreed that Councillor Shrubbs would write the Lode Star report for the next edition.

**414. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public was present to discuss

- Events at Lodestar site and Fen Road

**415. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- Mr Groundsman report is expected in due course.
- Longmeadow noticeboard needs repairing.
- Merlin Developments will install the new dog bin at Longmeadow.

**416. FINANCES INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS**

- **It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Page and resolved that the bank reconciliation for January 2026 be approved.**
- **The following receipts were noted:**
- **It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Weinberger and resolved that the outstanding accounts for February 2026 be settled. Action: Clerk to set up payments for authorization.**
- The Council reviewed the current budget status.

<b>For this meeting</b>					
BACS	S Chambers-Turner	Clerk Salary January			Confidential
BACS	JCS Bookkeeping	Payroll January	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS	Norfolk Parish Tra	AGAR Assertion 10	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00
BACS	Swaffham Bulbeck PC	Councillor training x 5	£227.08	£0.00	£227.80
BACS	Merlin Development	Gate Installation	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00

Signed: *F Platten*

9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### **417. PLANNING MATTERS**

##### **Planning Applications**

**26/00081/FUL**, 10 Lode Road, Lode. Paving of part existing driveway with permeable paving, new front garden wall and gate with hedge behind, bin enclosure, new planting areas and paving. The Parish Council have no comments.

**26/00075/FUL**, Riverside, Lode Fen, Lode. Proposed installation of a small-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm. The Parish Council are not in support of this application. It was noted that it is unclear why there was a need to install a new access road as there is already access to the field from the Fen Road and a gate. Concern was also raised on the proximity to residential houses and insufficient hedging. It was unclear why the panels could not be mounted on the existing buildings.

Avenue Farm Cottage, 19 Station Road, Lode. T1 Walnut – crown reduce by 2-3m, T2 Silver Birch – remove lowest four boughs to aesthetically balance tree.

#### **418. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**District Councillors Trapp and Cane provided a written report, which was circulated before the meeting. This included:**

- A public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation
- Roll out of new waste collection project
- Approval of RECAP waste strategy
- East Cambs Biodiversity report
- The presentation of the revenue budget
- Discussion on the Mepal Crematorium contingency budget

**County Councillor Edge provided a written report before the meeting. This included:**

- Budget for 2026-27
- A public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation
- A private donation for Arthur Rank Hospice
- Discussion of Dental services in Cambridgeshire
- East of England ambulance service performance
- Holiday supermarket vouchers
- Education health and care plans
- Special needs and disabilities (SEND) funding campaign
- Potholes
- Soil effected roads
- Bus service cuts

**Copies of the reports are available from the website or upon request from the Clerk.**

#### **419. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS**

- a. An action plan meeting has been scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March/
- b. The Annual Parish Meeting has been scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> May and it was agreed to tie this with playground opening.
- c. It was agreed that all Councillors will attend the Code of Conduct training. Action: Clerk to arrange date.
- d. Councillors Barrett and Weinberger have received the information from the bank but now require to log in.
- e. It was agreed in the absence of the Clerk, that the IT Policy adoption would be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **420. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES MATTERS**

- a. Two quotations had been received for the hedge cutting in the Cemetery, although there was some confusion over the quotation from East Cambs Trading. It was agreed that the

Clerk would contact ECTC to seek clarification on the quotation. On successful receipt of the amended quotation, the lowest quotation will be accepted, but works should be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. **Action:** *Clerk to clarify and then contact successful contractor.*

- b. Passage Green cutting is scheduled to take place as soon as practicable.
- c. Inspections of the playground were discussed and it was noted that clarification from the Clerk should be sought on the expectation of the insurance policy. Councillor Barrett will carry out the inspections on the playground and Councillor Weinberger will carry out the other inspections. **Action:** *Clerk to provide inspection sheets.*

**421. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

- a. It was reported that the Clerk has not heard back from Anglesey Abbey about a bus shelter on B1102. It was agreed that Councillor Platten would contact Emma Ormond-Bone to see if there is any progress.
- b. County Councillor Edge is going to inquire after time lines for the proposed Swaffham Greenway.

**422. 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.*

**423. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting will be held 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Meeting Room, St James Church, Lode.**

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm**