

MINUTES OF LODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 33– Monday 13th July 2026
Held at Fassage Hall, Lode.

Present: Councillor Rima Page, Councillor Fran Platten, Councillor Sarah Barrett, Councillor Ellis Weinberger, Councillor Tessa Shrubbs.

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

Members of public: 1

Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

487. CHAIRMANS WELCOME

Councillor Platten opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

488. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

489. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSTATION

None

490. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Page and resolved by those present that the minutes of meeting 32 held on 8th June 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

491. COMMUNICATIONS

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

492. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public were present to discuss:

- Paths and footways

493. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- The storage area on the Lode crossroads is still awaiting an answer. Clerk to chase.
- Lode fete monies have been received and a list of beneficiaries has been given.
- It was reported that unusual activity has been taking place in the woods and along the old railway line, early in the morning. It has been reported to the Police and the National Trust. It was suggested that often boxes and packages can be found discarded near easily identifiable landmarks and that should anyone discover discarded boxes in strange places, this should be reported to the Police.

494. FINANCES INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

- It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the bank reconciliation for June 2026 be approved.
- The following receipts were noted:
Interest: £157.43
- It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Platten and resolved that the outstanding accounts for July 2026 be settled including the withheld payments from May meeting for MC Groundscare. Action: Clerk to set up payments for authorization.

For this meeting					
BACS	S Chambers-Turner	Clerk Salary June			Confidential
BACS	JCS Bookkeeping	Payroll June	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS	Simon Handyman	Grass cutting boules court	£60.00	£0.00	60.00

BACS	Eastern Tree	Emergency tree works	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00
BACS	Simon Handyman	Fassage Green paths	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
BACS	MC Groundscare	Grass Cutting June	£1690.00	£338.00	£2028.00
BACS	Swaffham Drainage Board	Drainage rates	£48.76	£0.00	£48.76
BACS	Norfolk PTS	Code of Conduct training	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00

495. PLANNING MATTERS

26/00075/BNGD Riverside, Lode Fen. To discharge biodiversity net gain condition in relation to decision dated 1 May 2026 for 26/00075/FUL Proposed installation of a small-scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm and associated works. The Parish Council had no comments.

26/00643/CLE Riverside, Lode Fen. Creation of 2 no. agricultural buildings. The Parish Council did have some concerns over this application and its intended use.

Planning Decisions

26/00501/CLE, 1 Stable Yard, Lode Fen. Siting of caravan. Permission refused.

496. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors Trapp and Cane provided a written report that was circulated prior to the meeting. This included:

- Community Safety Partnership report
- Budget report for the previous financial year
- Register of buildings of Local Interest
- Performance report for waste and street cleansing services
- Report on new waste bin strategy
- Long term empty homes strategy

County Councillor Edge provided a written report that was circulated prior to the meeting.

This included:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Cambridgeshire SEND reform plan
- Holiday activities and food
- New ways of tackling poverty
- Digital support for unpaid carers
- Update on Kingsway Solar
- Update on Forest City 1
- Highways contract renegotiations
- Bus services at risk
- Local Highways Improvement bids
- Local Maintenance
- Lines and signs
- Footways

Details of the report are available on the website or upon request from the Clerk.

497. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Page and resolved that powers be delegated to the Clerk to carry out the functions of the Parish Council in the absence of a meeting in August.**

- b. It was noted that the Clerks annual review had taken place. **It was proposed by Councillor Weinberger, seconded by Councillor Page that the Clerks hours be increase by 2 hours per week with effect of 1st August 2026.**
- c. It was noted information was not being received effectively from the Cricket club about the junior matches and on occasion the ground had been double booked. It was agreed that a number of matters need to be discussed and that the Cricket club should be invited to attend a meeting to aid communication between the parties. **Action:** *Clerk to contact the Cricket club to arrange a meeting.*
- d. Visual Inspection training for the playground has been arranged, all Councillors have been provided with the access details. It was agreed that all Councillors should aim to have completed the training as soon as practicable.

498. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES MATTERS

- a. Councillor Barrett had carried out the monthly inspections and provided written reports to the Clerk. **Action:** *Clerk to arrange for outstanding actions to be completed.*
- b. It was reported that the dog waste bin at the entrance to the Passage by Rose Cottage was damaged. The team that empties the bins managed to carry out a repair.
- c. **It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Shrubbs and resolved that the quotation from Camline Cambridge for £695 be accepted.** **Action:** *Clerk to arrange the lining of the basketball court. Councillor Platten to speak with Rob Small to find out about the backboard.*
- d. **It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Shrubbs and resolved that the Parish Council wishes to seek formal ownership of the land known as Swan Corner.** **Action:** *Clerk to investigate the formal process to seek the land ownership.*
- e. At the time of writing the agenda, the footpath sign had become dislodged. A member of the public has now re-sited the sign.
- f. It was discussed that the painting of the boat was still outstanding from the playground redevelopment plans. **Action:** Community Payback team to be asked to paint the boat and site back in the playground.

499. COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a. The Clerk reported that there were several matters relating to the management of Passage Hall that would require the trustees attention including, water usage, alarm system, hire agreements and rubbish disposal. A meeting will be arranged to discuss further.

500. 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.

501. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 7.30pm on 14th September 2026 at Passage Hall , Lode.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: