MINUTES OF LODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 35– Monday 12th October 2026
Held at Fassage Hall, Lode.

Present: , Councillor Fran Platten, Councillor Sarah Barrett, Councillor Tessa Shrubbs.
In attendance: District Councillor John Trapp,
Members of public: 3
Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner
Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

518. CHAIRMANS WELCOME
Councillor Platten opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

519. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Councillor Rima Page; Councillor Ellis Weinberger; County Councillor Jonny Edge

520. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSTATION
None

521. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved by those present that the minutes of meeting 34 held on 14th September 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

522. COMMUNICATIONS
It was agreed that Sam Chambers-Turner would write the Lode Star report for the next edition of the Lode Star. It was discussed that if a rota was produced all Councillors and Clerk would then know the expected dates for the preparation of the report in advance.

523. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Member of the public were present to discuss:
- To discuss the geese on Mill Road
- Planning application 26/01038/FUL

524. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS
- Correspondence had been received about the speed limit between Lode and Bottisham and a request for collaborative working. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item.
- The Clerk raised that the path between Fassage Close and the Fassage was extremely poorly lit during the winter months. It was agreed that this would be a future agenda item.

525. 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 September 2026 be approved.**
- **The following receipts were noted:**
  Interest: £174.55
  Precept: £12709.00
  Burial Income: £100.00
- **It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the outstanding accounts for October 2026 be settled. Action***: Clerk to set up payments for authorization.*

For this meeting					
BACS	S Chambers-Turner	Clerk Salary September			Confidential

BACS	JCS Bookkeeping	Payroll September	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00
BACS	Net Sports World	Basketball equipment if approved	£874.12	£174.82	£1048.94
BACS	MC Groundscare	Grass Cutting	£960.00	£192.00	£1152.00
BACS	Edge	Software	£657.20	£131.44	£788.64
BACS	Safety Signs 4 Less	Dog Fouling Signs	£122.66	£24.53	£147.19
BACS	Eastern Tree Surgery	Trees if approved	£1030.00	£206.00	£1236.00

526. PLANNING MATTERS

26/01038/FUL 53 Mill Road, Lode. Change of roofing materials incorporating inlaid photovoltaic panels to rear slope and replacement of roof window glazing to the rear and side. **The Parish Council support this application as a vast improvement.**

527. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

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

- Operational Services Meeting
- Finance and Assets Meeting

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

- Strategy Resources & Performance
- Council Budget
- Tackling obesity
- Urgent campaign to find more adoptive families
- Unclaimed pension credit cashback campaign
- Bus services reimagined
- Mobile library
- Highways Improvement bids
- Electric vehicle cable channel trial

Full copies of the reports are available from the website or upon request to the Clerk.

528. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

a. The closure of audit information had been received on 30th September. The Clerk reported that they felt that some of the except for matters had been raised unfairly despite the appropriate answers being given.
b. Fields in Trust have made contact and wish to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council. Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting.
c. The Clerk requested confirmation on the handling of pre-applications for planning. It was noted that pre-apps remain confidential and should not be shared outside of the Parish/Town council under any circumstances. Furthermore, the applicant does not have to allow the Parish Council to be made aware of any such advice being sought.
d. It was agreed that the Finance working group meeting will take place on teams at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

529. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES MATTERS

a. Quotations had been received for the tree works highlighted in the recent tree audit. It was proposed by Councillor Platten seconded by Councillor Shrubbs and resolved that Eastern Tree Surgery quotation for £1030.00 be approved.
b. Councillors Barrett and Weinberger carried out the monthly inspections, and it was noted that the soil was now above the matting around the next swing. This will be monitored over the winter months.
c. The cycle path has now been cut, but there is an area of around 100m where the scrub will cause problems if not trimmed down. Action: Clerk to ask the grass contractor to clear the area back to the hedging.
d. The Clerk confirmed that allotment renewals will commence this month and paperwork will be sent out accordingly.
e. It was confirmed that the signage of maintenance will be placed on Swan Corner this week.
f. It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the quotation for the new basketball equipment be accepted at a cost of £1048.94.
g. It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that a new dog bin should be purchased from Glasdon at a cost of £201.71.
h. Matters relating to the Cemetery management were discussed and safety testing is due to commence in Winter 2026.
i. It had been confirmed that the trees in Fairhaven Close are the responsibility of the County Council. Further information is awaited.
j. It was discussed and agreed that disabled signs will be placed on the rear of Fassage Hall, but with the addition of a disclaimer of leaving vehicles at own risk, due to the proximity to the basketball court.

530. COMMUNITY MATTERS

a. The Parish Council discussed several options for Local Highways Improvement schemes, including the 20mph scheme. This will be bought back to the November meeting for further discussion.
b. It was discussed that the telephone box remains unused and that it would be a prominent place for a secondary defibrillator for the village. Action: Clerk to seek quotations and bring back to the December meeting.
c. Councillor Platten reported that some of the activities that the cricket club had stated that they would undertake are still outstanding. Councillor Platten will chase and seek a resolution.

531. 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.

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532. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 7.30pm on 9th November 2026 at Fassage Hall , Lode.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed: