MINUTES OF LODE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 34– Monday 14th September 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: 3
Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner
Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

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

503. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None

504. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSTATION
Councillor Page notified neighbour of planning application **26/00855/FUL.**

505. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Weinberger and resolved by those present that the minutes of meeting 33 held on 13th July 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

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

507. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Member of the public were present to discuss:

- Increase of HGV using the village to access the Fen Road
- Planning application for the old Chapel
- Speed limit on road between Bottisham and Lode.

508. MATTERS ARISING/CLERK & COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- The Clerk reported that the basketball court was due to be relined on 22nd September. However, it was agreed this should be delayed to purchase a new hoop and pole.
- Councillor Platten reported that the bin closest to Rose Cottage, is still causing problems and needs to be replaced.
- Signs are to be placed on Swan Corner to highlight that land is maintained by the Parish Council.
- Fields in Trust to be chased about registering Fassage Green.

509. 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 August 2026 be approved.**
- **The following receipts were noted:**
  Cheffins: £315.60
  Training Reimbursement £300.00
- **It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Platten and resolved that the outstanding accounts for September 2026 be settled.** **Action***: Clerk to set up payments for authorization.*

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

BACS	JCS Bookkeeping	Payroll August	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
BACS	Simon Handyman	Grass cutting boules court & Fassage Green	£160.00	£0.00	£160.00
BACS	Freethought	Cyber security	£8.00	£1.60	£9.60

510. BUDGET REVIEW

It was noted that the Parish Council had reviewed the budget documentation provided by the Clerk. No concerns were raised.

511. PLANNING MATTERS

26/00918/ARN Conversion of 2 No. agricultural barns into 2 no. single storey dwellings with associated alterations. Riverside, Lode Fen, CB259HD. The Parish Council raised concern that the buildings were not being used for agricultural use previously and therefore would not be covered by section Q.

26/00855/FUL & 26/00886/LBC Change of use to convert former Baptist Chapel into a single new dwelling, involving partial demolition of later extensions, constructions of a new two-storey extension and sundry landscaping and access adaptations. The Parish Council discussed the proposals at length, and it was agreed that due to the complex nature of the application that it was best suited to be heard by Planning Committee. **Action:** *Clerk to write to District Councillor Trapp to call in the application.*

Planning Decisions

26/00075/BNGD 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 (PV) farm and associated works**. Approved**

1sRiverside, Lode Fen, CB25 9HD.

26/00643/CLE Erection of 2 no. buildings. Riverside Lode Fen, CB25 9HD**. Approved.**

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512. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors Trapp and Cane did not provide a written report, although Cllr Trapp was present no information was given.

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

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Unpaid carers invited to share their experience
- Shaping the future of adult social care
- Homelessness and temporary accommodation in rural areas
- Gully clearances
- Rights of Way improvement plan
- Local Highways Improvement bids
- Local Highway Maintenance

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

513. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

a. The closure of audit documentation had not been received in time for the meeting so this item was deferred.

b. Councillor Platten reported that the scrap had still not been collected from the side of the container. The cricket club have assured the Parish Council that all fixtures and training sessions including juniors will be booked via the lemon booking system.

c. The Clerk inquired as to whether the council would be interested in undertaking the Local Council Award scheme, which acknowledges best practices. It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Weinberger and resolved that the Parish Council will start the process of applying for the Bronze Local Council Award. Action: Clerk to make initial enquires into the process.

d. It was reported that a training opportunity has presented itself for all councillors to undertake a variety of training including cyber security, data protection and other courses relevant to the sector.

e. It was noted that the Parish Council supported a letter written by County Councillor Edge to the Rt Hon Angela Rayner about the deferment of the Local Government Reorganisation announcement.

f. It was noted that the Parish Councils insurance had been renewed.

514. ENVIRONMENTAL AND OPEN SPACES MATTERS

a. Councillors Barrett and Weinberger carried out the monthly inspections on the open spaces and play areas and had provided written copies to the Clerk. **Action:** *Clerk to arrange for outstanding actions to be completed.*

b. The audit of the parish owned trees had been completed. The report indicated that there were a number of trees that required actions. Some of which could be carried out by a working party. It was agreed that Councillor Platten would arrange a walk around to discuss works that the working party could undertake and that Eastern Tree Surgery would be asked for a quotation to undertake the more significant tree works. **Action:** *Clerk to arrange quotation for works and report back to the next meeting.*

c. It was reported that Sanctuary had undertaken works to some of the trees in Fairhaven Close including felling of one tree. However, it was discussed that other work had not been completed. District COuncillor Trapp had agreed to speak with Sanctuary to find out why further work had not been carried out and the plans for the replacement of the felled trees. Action: District Councillor Trapp to report back to the Council.

d. Correspondence had been received about dog fouling in the village. It was discussed that more signs would be required to remind residents of the importance of clearing up after their dogs and that these would be situated in prominent places around the Fassage, Cemetery and allotment area.

e. The Clerk reported that an inspection on the stability of the memorial stones in the Cemetery would be required, and it was suggested that this should be carried out in the coming months.

f. The Parish Council reviewed the Cemetery Fees and the inclusion of a memorial permit when an Exclusive Right of Burial deed is purchased. **It was proposed by Councillor Shrubbs, seconded by Councillor Platten and resolved that the new Cemetery fees document for 26/27 be adopted.**

g. It was reported that the cycle path between Lode and Quy had still not be cut and required attention as soon as possible. **Action:** *Clerk to speak with contractor.*

h. **Q**uotations had been sought to carry out the hedge maintenance at the Cemetery. **It was proposed by Councillor Platten, seconded by Councillor Weinberger and resolved that MC Groundscare be awarded the contract for carrying out the hedge cutting of the Cemetery.**

515. COMMUNITY MATTERS

a. Correspondence had been received from local residents about the potential of a 20mph scheme similar to Quy and Bottisham. The Clerk reported that the new round of applications is due to open late in 2026. It was discussed that further opinion should be sought from the village. **Action:** *Clerk to share details of the survey carried out by Quy Parish Council.*

b. It had been reported that a number of geese were frequenting Mill Road and in some instances were causing disruption. It was agreed that a note would be included in the next edition of the Lode Star to remind residents that if they wished to feed them this should be done in the vicinity of the riverbank.

516. 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.

517. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 7.30pm on 12th October 2026 at Fassage Hall , Lode.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed: