



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th December 2013

Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Ross Clark	Councillor	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Not Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Chairman	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Forum for Members of the Public

Twenty members of the public attended and were involved in Item 3 discussions.

In addition, one member of the public questioned the decision not to kerb outside 20 to 24 Fair Green during the recent works. Councillor Thomas explained the process and why the decision was taken.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Visit by Sue Loaker (Police Crime Prevention Officer), Kevin Evans (Regional Neighbourhood Watch) and Stephen Cook (Managing Director of Briar Security).

This part of the meeting was chaired by Sue Loaker who commented that relatively speaking, Reach suffered less than the average. She then outlined what villagers could do to protect their properties.

Kevin Evans talked of the importance of Neighbourhood Watch as a deterrent. **The Clerk** will work with Kevin to identify our local activists and check that there is sufficient signage in place. Villagers will be informed of the outcome via the village website.

Stephen Cook contributed as appropriate to the various discussions that took place.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

There was no activity during the previous month.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

Cabinet considered a number of issues, including enforcement of bus lanes, the current twinning arrangements with Kreis Viersen in Germany and the sale of a number of gypsy and travelers sites (including Burwell) to the respective District Councils as the housing authorities.

The Constitution and Ethics Committee met to further consider moves to a committee system of governance and a suggested model will be debated at Council in December. A workshop was also held for all members regarding the proposed system.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

Neighbourhood Panels will cease from 31st March 2014.

Homelessness in East Cambs is reducing.

Bottisham Primary School has been awarded £5,000 of Section 106 monies to resurface the "Adventurers" Play Area.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation and expects to provide a surplus during the financial year.

5 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

5 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillor Ward, who was unable to attend the meeting, had attended a Parish Paths Partnership (P3) meeting during the month.

5 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report

Councillor Dunnett was unable to attend the meeting. **The Clerk** will place the order for replacement netting for the Play Area apparatus.

5 (8) Rights of Way Report

Councillor Fielding and the Clerk reported on various meetings that had taken place with Karen Champion who is the Rights of Way Officer.

It was agreed that a meeting of interested parties would be beneficial, to potentially include Councillors Aves, Fielding and Thomas with Karen Champion, George Gibson and Graham Reeve. The aim would be to create a plan of action for all the byways in the village, including the badly rutted Byway 11 and the 24Acres track.

Councillor Fielding will arrange the meeting with help, as needed, from the Clerk.

An issue with fencing taking place next to Reach Wood had been successfully dealt with by Councillor Fielding.

5 (9) Village Centre Report

There was nothing to report in the previous month.

5 (10) 24Acres Committee Report

All proceeds well - with the planting of the woodland being the next major event to take place on the 7th December.

Claims will be made to AmeyCespa, the Big Tree Plant and ECDC during December which will improve our cash flow with the final claim to AmeyCespa for the cricket pitch taking place in April 2014.

6. Clerk Recruitment

The Clerk reported that there were 2 applicants to date. Arrangements will be made by **the Clerk** to conduct interview for the vacant position during week beginning Monday 16th December 2013 with the aim being for the new Clerk to attend the January meeting.

7. Local Highways Improvement Programme YE 2015

It was decided to focus the Parish Council's application on trying to reduce down the speed of vehicles approaching Reach from Swaffham Prior. The Clerk commented on discussions with Highways who recommended road narrowing measures around the 30mph signs on the Swaffham Road, with a blue Priority sign (priority being given to vehicles leaving Reach). There would also be some woodwork and planting put in place to psychologically indicate to drivers that they are entering a rural area and should slow down appropriately. **The Clerk** will complete the necessary forms in time for the deadline of Monday 9th December.

8. Planning Applications

Planning application 13/00812/FUL (30 Fair Green) was discussed. **The Clerk** was asked to remind the Planning Authorities that they would like a condition of planning approval to be that the current plastic windows be replaced with wooden ones.

9. Information Items

The Parish Council had received an email relating to a potential grant of £20,000 to £40,000 for "the creation or enhancement of a community playground, or to improve the insulation/heating of a community facility, such as a village or community hall.

Councillor Fielding will discuss this opportunity with the Manege team to see whether it is appropriate to make an application for monies.

A document relating to the "Level of Council Tax Support Grant to Town and Parish Councils from 2014/15 onwards" had been received and will be reviewed by the Parish Council at a subsequent meeting.

The Clerk reported a likely Local Highways Improvement Programme cost of £495.21 - of which £400 will be paid by the Parish Council and £95.21 by a local resident.

A resident wishes to attach an exhaust flue from a woodburner to the Dyke's End pub. The Clerk will obtain a copy of the lease for review at the next meeting.

10. Payments

BHT	Woodland Trees and Planting Items	£3,376.52
Paulredsports	Cricket Stumps	£39.98
C R Contracting	24Acres Mowing	£150.00
David Thomas	24Acres Costs	£191.99

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 8th January 2013 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday and can be accessed from the Parish Council area of the Reach website (www.reach-village.co.uk).

Chairman:

Date: