



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd September 2014.

Attendance

Michael Aves	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Chairman	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

The meeting was opened with the Chairman, Councillor Thomas, paying tribute to Councillor Rita Dunnett who sadly passed away on Thursday 21st August 2014. A minute's silence was held.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

2. Forum for Members of the Public

One resident attended to discuss item 3

3. Footpath and kissing gate at The Hythe

CCC wishes to remove the middle kissing gate along the pathway. A resident expressed concern that should the kissing gate be removed it would allow an increase in nuisance users of the pathway, motorbikes, horses etc. The PC would like explore replacing the other two gates with larger, more accessible gates, to allow better access but still preventing access to those not legally allowed. These would however need to be funded by grants or other means.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were signed as correct.

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

Councillor Ward agreed to take the place of Councillor Dunnett on the Amenity Fund Committee. The Amenity fund had received a suggestion that money should be made available to general charities. The Parish Council's view is that the money should stay in the village or go to local charities (e.g. Snakehall Farm, scouts etc.) but not be made available to other charities.

A resident had suggested that a bench should be purchased in memory of Councillor Dunnett.

Councillor Thomas to discuss with Mr Dunnett, in the first instance. Should this be agreeable the Clerk will obtain quotes and apply to the Amenity Fund.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

August is traditionally a quiet month for formal meetings at the Council.

As reported previously Ofsted has recently been inspecting the Council's children's services. I am delighted to be able to report that the latest inspection results show that the service has moved from inadequate to good. This is an unprecedented jump of 2 Ofsted grades and is testament to hard work put in by many people.

Government has allocated CCC £34 million less in capital funding than we were expecting and believe we need. A number of meetings have taken place to discuss the capital programme and to lobby for a fairer allocation.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

Ely Country Park has been awarded 'green flag' status.

Under the new Committee structure I am a member of – The Licencing Committee, The Regulatory and Support Services Committee, and The Commercial Service Committee. I have also been appointed 'Infrastructure Champion' to look at where infrastructure is required to facilitate growth. Bonfires were again discussed. **The Clerk** to forward an article to the village magazine reminding residents about the rules regarding bonfires, particularly on byways and public land.

5 (4) Financial Report

Very little activity this month, the Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

No meetings were attended.

5 (6) Play Spaces

A new officer is required and was discussed. **The Clerk** to obtain the play spaces report and discuss with Councillor Thomas.

5 (7) Rights of Way

The byway at the entrance to Reach Wood, at the top of the track from Great Lane, was discussed. **Councillor Fielding** to contact the user of the adjacent field, to discuss the damage that took place last winter, and how it might be avoided in future. Users have a responsibility to keep byways in a good state of repair.

Councillor Fielding is continuing to monitor hedge growth and hedge-cutting along pathways and byways. **The Clerk** to contact two residents with regard to cutting back their hedges.

5 (8) Village Centre

No meeting had been held, the next meeting will be on the 10th September. **Councillor Fielding** to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

A committee meeting is being arranged. The idea of a pond is being discussed. A resident would like to arrange some fund raising events to raise money to pay for the fencing off of an area for safe horse riding. The Parish Council had no objection.

6. The Avenue of Limes

Following an inspection it is believed that 14 of the Limes are dead and the rest are dying, there is no visible growth of the trees, despite the excellent conditions this year. It was discussed as to what should be done. **The Clerk** to obtain a professional report as to their viability and what is the best cause of action.

7. Village tree works

Various trees and hedges around the village are in need of surgery, pruning and cutting back. **The Clerk** to obtain quotes to be agreed at the next meeting.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Information Items

There were none.

10. Payments

CR Contracting	£ 170.50
D. Blocksage	£ 140.00

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 1st October 2014 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: