



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 7th January 2015.

Attendance

Michael Aves	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Vice Chairman	Present
Charlotte Cane	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Not Present
David Thomas	Chairman	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Not Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cane declared that she is a Governor of Swaffham Prior School.

2. Updating of Reach Street lighting – discussion with Balfour Beatty.

Several residents attended the meeting, to take part in this discussion.

Balfour Beatty made a short presentation with regard to their contract with CCC, to replace the street lights across the County. It was stated that Reach is not a CCC designated area for heritage style lights and will therefore have all the CCC owned street lights replaced with standard ones. Additionally the work has been brought forward and will start immediately. Councillors and residents attending the meeting were very unhappy with this.

There is a possibility that these standard lights can be painted black and have Windsor tops put on to look similar to Heritage style lamps, however they are approx. 1m taller. PC will need to pay the additional cost of the tops.

There are 4 heritage style lamps belonging to CCC which will be replaced as standard, Councillor Clark requested that these be transferred to PC ownership allowing them to remain as they are.

Councillor Cane proposed that BB should not carry out the work as Reach had not been given enough time to discuss the matter and that CCC should be asked to stop BB from carrying out the work. BB are to supply the costs of the conversion to lights with Windsor tops and details of the additional running costs. This proposal was carried unanimously. **Councillor Brown** to contact CCC, tonight, to ask for the work not to go ahead.

Councillor Clark to chair a group of residents and councillors, to gather the facts and figures, for the options, for Reach street lighting. And to discuss with both BB and CCC. These will then be discussed by the PC.

3. Forum for Members of the Public

Residents attended to discuss a Village Centre project, to provide utility services, water & electricity, on the village green. Following a presentation and discussion, Councillor Fielding proposed that village residents should be consulted on this project. David Parr to put full details on the website, and the proposal will be discussed again at the next meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

A meeting had been held. The committee has agreed to match donations up to £500 if villagers hold a charity event. **Councillor Clark** to report this in Within Reach magazine. The committee had also approved the payment for the memorial bench.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council in December debated and agreed 2 motions: the first in support of greater involvement in District Council local plans and the second to look again at how community transport can be improved, including dial-a-ride services. Council agreed governance arrangements for the City Deal and also agreed a motion of censure against a Councillor for failing to comply with the ruling of a hearings committee.

The Children and Young People Committee also met to consider a number of issues. Progress towards recommending a balanced budget in January was agreed, as was an Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. Proposals for a policy for financial contributions for Looked after Children were deferred for further information.

I met with the manager of the Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Locality Team to discuss proposals for the future of early help services as part of the savings requirements and also had meetings with individual directors in Children, Families and Adults.

I had the pleasure of attending the Cambridgeshire Schools Carol Concert in Kings' College Chapel.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

All salt bins in the area are mostly full, residents are able to scatter the mixture from these bins as they see fit. The unauthorised travellers' encampment in Swaffham Bulbeck has been vacated, the site still needs some items clearing, and I have contacted the district council asking for a final clear up.

Plans have been lodged for a cinema, 4 restaurants and a driver thru at the new leisure village on land off the A10 at Downham Road. There would also be a new underpass for cyclists and pedestrians.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were no meetings this month.

5 (6) Play Spaces

The repair work has been completed. **Councillor Thomas** to check on the football nets following a Muntjac incident.

5 (7) Rights of Way

The pathways in Reach Wood have been cut by the Woodland Trust. This has made walking much easier but the Blackthorn has not been dealt with.

5 (8) Village Centre

The next meeting will be 21st January, **Clerk** to ask for draft minutes so they can be discussed at the next meeting.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

An application for a grant has been made to the Woodland Trust for hedging along the front boundary. Councillor Fielding is having continuing discussions with a neighbouring landowner with regard to putting in a culvert. The committee and the NT are to arrange a meeting to discuss the plans for the coming year. A black Poplar tree is to be placed in the 24Acres alongside the proposed memorial bench for Councillor Rita Dunnett.

6. The Cemetery

Clerk awaiting a third quote for the fencing work. Decision deferred to the next meeting.

7. Reach Wood Meadow

The Woodland Trust has offered the PC the chance to take over the management of Reach wood and meadow. The PC is unable to provide the necessary money and expertise to do this, but would like a Reach group to be put together to assist the WT with the management and to put Reach views forward. **Councillor Ward** to reply to the WT. **Clerk** to put a notice in Within Reach asking for interested people to come forward to form a support group to be "friend of Reach wood" to assist the WT with the management.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Information Items/AOB

A resident had complained about the lack and quality of the mowing of the village green and the quality of the grass. The situation will be monitored and discussed when the mowing contact is renewed.

A discussion took place regarding the PC supporting the Swaffham Prior School's extension to go on the District Council's Regulation 123 list for funding from CIL money. This proposal was accepted, **Clerk** to complete the form and submit.

Councillor Dunnett's family had asked if the memorial plaque could include a reference to who donated it, this was approved. **Clerk** to arrange.

10. Payments

Fenland Leisure	£ 407.70
Simpsons Nurseries- Christmas tree	£ 60.00
Susan Bailey – Clerk salary	£ 607.92
Susan Bailey – 24Acres signs	£ 8.00

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 4th February 2015 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: