



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4th March 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	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Present

1. Forum for Members of the Public

None present

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The Amenity fund had agreed to give £850 to the street light funding.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 17th February with the business plan being the main item on the agenda. Following some debate the plan, put together by the various committees over the course of the year was approved by a majority vote. This includes a 1.99% increase in Council Tax for the coming year, coupled with identified savings of £32 million for 2015/16.

I sat on an assessment panel to consider applications to run a new primary school at Alconbury Weald. Following a full day of interviews it was agreed unanimously to recommend a joint bid from the Diocese of Ely and the Methodist Church as the sponsors for the new school.

Other meetings attended included a meeting regarding progress with the School Building capital programme, meetings regarding streetlights in Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck and a workshop of the General Purposes Committee looking at the business planning process for 2016/17. I have been invited to a meeting with the police regarding a proposal for some targeted youth work in Burwell. I am also pleased to report that I have been shortlisted for an award at the annual councillor awards, with winners to be announced in London on 2nd March.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

At full council on February 26th the budget for 2016/16 was approved. Having made savings of £797,722 in 2014/15 we were able to produce a balanced budget for 2015/16 and 16/17 with no increase in ECDC council tax for the next two years.

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are our preferred mechanism for enabling people to live and work locally. We have a CLT at Stretham and Swaffham Prior. We are also working with Soham Thrift CLT to bring another site forward.

I attended a Housing seminar where we examined ways that ECDC and Sanctuary Housing can improve joint working for the benefit of social housing tenants.

I also attended a Transformation seminar. With reducing resources and increasing public demand on the Council we need to make sure that we have a motivated/focused staff and more efficient processes. We are promoting a 'can do' culture, doing the 'right thing' for our residents.

Fly tipping has increased lately and is something I am keeping an eye on.

4 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were no meetings this month.

4 (6) Play Spaces

Grants for new equipment were briefly discussed, along with the need to appoint a new play spaces officer after the Election.

4 (7) Rights of Way

Again complaints had been received with regard to dog mess on various paths around the village. **Clerk** to contact the Woodland Trust, who have previously discussed additional signage for Reach Wood.

Councillor Cane to investigate the possibility of bylaws being introduced, to try to reduce this continuing nuisance.

Horses are still being ridden around the wood and along the load bank, **Councillor Fielding** to discuss with the Environment Agency and **Clerk** to look into signage for the wood.

4 (8) Village Centre

No information available.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

A hedge had been planted along the front boundary of the 24Acres and also around the storage container.

5. Mowing Contacts

Only two quotations had been received. Decision postponed until next meeting and a third quote obtained.

6. Insurance Renewal

Three quotations had been obtained for the village insurance cover, for the coming year. A quotation was accepted. **Clerk** to contact the insurance company to accept the quote and to add additional items, the adopted street lights and the three benches on the 24Acres.

7. Planning Applications

There were none.

8. Information Items/AOB

Traffic Calming – Once the PC have more information on this project, consultation with residents will take place.

Street light PC13 was reported as not working; **Clerk** to contact Balfour Beatty (BB) who hold the maintenance contract for the street lights.

Complaints had also been received about the holes and inadequate fencing left along the footpath of the Swaffham Road. **Clerk** to contact BB.

The forth coming Election was discussed **Clerk** to initiate advertising for this around the village.

A discussion took place with regard to the PC having residents email address to allow the PC to communication with and consult residents directly. Data protection rules would be checked. **Clerk** to investigate.

9. Payments

Cambridge Restoration – memorial bench	£ 895.00
David Thomas – 24Acres hedge	£ 72.00

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