



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3rd June 2015.

Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Michael Aves	Vice Chair	Present
Hannah Baldwin	Councillor	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Not Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	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

No report. Councillor Thomas to join the Amenity fund committee as the council's second representative.

4 (2) County Councillor's Report

At the Annual Meeting of Council, Cllr Sebastian Kindersley (LD) was elected as Chairman for the coming year with Cllr Mandy Smith (Con) as vice-Chairman. Cllr Steve Count was re-elected as Leader of the Council. I had the honour of being re-elected as vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee. I was also appointed to the General Purposes Committee, the Constitution and Ethics Committee and the Staffing Appeals Committee.

General Purposes Committee met and considered the usual range of financial reports. It was also agreed to proceed with the financial case to build a solar farm on council owned land near Soham and to make more money available to fund loans for energy investments in publicly owned properties.

The Children and Young People Committee discussed secondary provision in Huntingdonshire and approved the next phase of the Together for Families initiative. The Committee also appointed me to chair the Corporate Parenting Board. I also attended meetings of the Social Care Improvement Board; CYP spokes; a workshop with senior officers to start the business planning process for next year; and a meeting to short list potential contractors to build a new secondary school at Hampton Gardens (jointly with Peterborough City Council).

The Local Government Boundary Commission has published a consultation paper seeking views on reducing the number of County Council Divisions from 69 to 61. The proposals would see the current Soham and Fordham Villages Division split in two and the Burwell Division being merged with part of Soham together with Fordham, Isleham and other villages. The consultation is open to the public to comment and can be found at www.lgbce.gov.uk.

4 (3) District Councillor's Report

In the May election there was a strong swing to the Conservatives, resulting in the Conservatives having a very large majority at ECDC. We certainly do not intend to steamroller our policies through but wherever possible follow a democratic process. I believe that district wise there is a shortage of affordable housing and also houses available at a fair rent. We must attempt to address this issue.

Within the ward I believe the most important issue is the funding that Swaffham Prior School needs. We must continue to pursue this.

There have been three fridge's fly tipped at Little Fen Drove.

There is also a large amount of fly tipping in the stream at Stonebridge bridge at Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck. I am dealing with both issues.

Following my request, the fly tipping at Head Lake Drove has been cleared up. Unfortunately we seem to be getting an increase in fly tipping.

4 (4) Financial Report

The changing of the named signatories on the PC bank account is taking longer than expected due to the need to remove some very old names from the account. The process should be completed within the next week.

4 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were no meetings this month.

4 (6) Play Spaces

The safety report is expected. Councillor Baldwin has taken on the role of Play Spaces officer.

4 (7) Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

4 (8) Village Centre

No report received.

4 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

A meeting is being held later this week.

5. Annual Audit Report

The Parish Council had reviewed our Annual Return and approved it. *The Clerk* will send the return to the External Auditor.

6. Local Government County Boundary Review

The boundaries are being moved to make the system fairer, with regard to the number of voters in each area. It is proposed that the area Reach is included in will have 2 Councillors for 12 Parishes, at present there are 3 Councillors for this area. The PC would prefer to have 1 Councillor for 6 Parishes so that we would always know who to refer to and who was our point of contact within CCC. *Councillor Brown* to provide information on CCC opinion at the next meeting, prior to the PC making a decision on how we should comment.

7. Bicycle parking in the Cemetery during Reach Fair

A complaint had been received with regard to bikes being parked inside the cemetery during Reach Fair. Following discussion, it was decided that the best solution, in future years, would be for the gate to be locked and a key available at the information point, for anyone who wanted to visit the cemetery whilst the fair is on. *Councillor Cane* to write to the resident to apologise, and to explain the discussion & the proposed solution.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Information Items/AOB

It was noted that the repair to the village sign had not been acknowledged by the PC. The PC is very appreciative of the time and hard work given by John Holmwood, in repairing and restoring the sign. **The Clerk** to arrange for a note to be added to the website and a letter to be sent to John.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities – The PC are very happy for John Robinson to continue to represent the PC on the charities committee.

10. Payments

CR Contracting – Mowing contract	£336.50
John Reed – Cemetery fencing	£576.00

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