



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th October 2016

Attendance

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – From Councillor Brown, received and approved.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Aves declared an interest in planning application 16/01036/FUL.
Councillors Baldwin declared an interest in Reach Fair.

Forum for Members of the Public

Residents attended to discuss the planning application, the playground and Reach fair.

3. **Planning**

16/01036/FUL – the PC concluded that although they were neither for nor against this planning application, certain points should be made to ECDC. The PC wanted to also make it clear that they appreciated that there is a need for this type of family home, particularly for village families. The main concerns were the position of the site, outside the previous planning envelope, and that this may lead to infill building in the future. This may set precedence for ribbon development along Great Lane/Barston Dove. That the site was isolated from the village and in a rural, open countryside location. Concern was discussed regarding the highway issues relating to the entrance onto the site. The **Clerk** will therefore submit a letter to ECDC planning, stating these thoughts & points.

The PC would also like to thank the owners of 30 Fair green for the information regarding their future planning application.

4. **Play equipment improvements**

Following a survey of residents there is clearly an interest in updating the playground equipment and also expanding the equipment to include adult and older children facilities. **Councillor Bridgeman** and **Cath Tayleur** to obtain some initial quotes and will talk to Swaffham Bulbeck for advice. Once this has moved forward residence will again be consulted.

5. **Reach Fair**

It had been proposed, at a village meeting, that the PC should take back the running/organising of Reach Fair from the village centre committee. The Events Team are keen to take this on and the village

centre committee have been struggling to get volunteers. The PC is accepting of this idea in principle but more information is required about how this would be handled, the financial implications and the legalities of it. **The Clerk** to discuss with the insurance company and **The Events team** to present a detailed proposal at the next meeting.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

7 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

Nothing report

7(2) County Councillor's Report

At General Purposes Committee we considered the usual range of financial reports. We also agreed to invest in two particular areas with the aim of securing longer-term savings. The two areas are assistive technology to assist with the care of (primarily) older people and re-negotiation of the waste PFI. We also held a joint GPC/SMT workshop to consider business planning for 2017/18 and held a member seminar on the same topic.

Children and Young People Committee met with the main agenda item being a question and answer session with Dr Tim Coulson, the Regional Schools Commissioner. This involved a number of ways in which we can work together to improve the outcomes for pupils in Cambridgeshire schools. Committee also agreed to join a regional approach to housing and caring for young Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, which will see Cambridgeshire take up to 92 UASCs.

I attended Constitution and Ethics Committee where we agreed to advertise for people to form an independent panel to consider members' allowances. I also sat on Staffing and Appeals Committee to consider future arrangements for Executive Director for Children, Families and Adults.

7(3) District Councillor's Report

Local Plan Seminar – a seminar had been held to discuss the recommendations on housing, employment, and green spaces. The recommendations will not be in the public domain until the agenda for November's Full Council meeting is published.

There will then be a consultation period Dec/Jan. The Local Plan should be adopted in 2018.

Sanctuary Housing – I have been dealing with several problems on behalf of Sanctuary Housing tenants.

Fly tipping – Over the last couple of months there has been an increase in fly tipping, mainly beside the fen droves. There are other ways of disposing of these items

- The recycling system (household)
- The recycling centres at Milton & Witchford – open until 5.30pm
- The District Council will collect bulky items for a fee – contact the council helpdesk 01353 665555

7(4) Financial Report

This month we have received the second precept payment from ECDC. And a payment of £858 from BT Openreach for the broadband wayleave.

The cemetery income continues to grow and this money will be moved into a restricted reserve so that a fund can grow for maintenance of the cemetery as and when required.

The auditor had a problem with the accounts submitted; these were corrected and resubmitted on time. We have now received confirmation that the audit has been completed for this year end. We will need to look at how we deal with the end of year for 2017.

7(5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were none.

7(6) Play Spaces

Weekly safety inspections continue, highlighting a couple of issues which need repair. This includes the wooden bridge and a squeaky swing. The entrance gate is broken and needs replacing. **Clerk** to get prices. Some parents had complained that they had banged their heads on climbing bars, **Councillor Bridgeman** to tape these to improve visibility.

7(7) Rights of Way

Nothing to report.

Matters arising from the last meeting – Councillor Boreham had obtained the No Horse Riding signs.

7(8) 24Acres Committee Report

Nick Acklam has reported that the growth and survivorship of trees in the 24 Acres woodland plantation over the summer has been very good. He proposes planting a further 100 trees over the winter 2016/17 to fill-in an area originally left unplanted to the north west of the woodland. This can be covered within the budget for maintaining the wood this year. The PC were in agreement with this.

7(9) Friends of Reach Wood

The mowing of the Reach Wood meadow took place satisfactorily on Monday 26th September. It is clear that the ragwort problem at Reach Wood meadow is not being controlled by the ragwort pulling events over the summer. Ian Froggatt of the Woodland Trust has advised that herbicide may have to be used in 2017 to bring the problem under control.

Coppicing of hazel in the wood started unexpectedly last week and will continue throughout this week.

Ian Froggatt of the Woodland Trust stated that this is statutory work required by the National Grid. The remit is to coppice all the trees and shrubs directly under the powerlines, that run along the edge of the wood. I have told Ian Froggatt that the lack of consultation, and the lack of notice that the works were about to start is unacceptable. He has apologised, but pointed out that statutory works of this kind are largely out of his control. It seems that he at least managed to avoid them doing this work in the spring.

7(10) Local Plan

Nothing to report.

8 Fees – cemetery and mooring

Cemetery.

It was proposed and accepted that the fees would be put up 5% as is usual, except for 'Interments for persons whose age at death exceeds 12 years' and 'Exclusive right of burial' which will increase by 20% to help bring Reach fees in line with those of other local cemeteries.

Mooring.

These would remain unchanged.

The silting up of the Lode was discussed **Councillor Boreham** to continue speaking with the Environment agency and **Councillor Ward** to discuss with the IDB.

9 Highways – Burwell Road

No update had been received.

10 Information Items/AOB

An increase in dog fouling on public rights of way had been reported. **Councillor Baldwin** to obtain some signs to be placed around the village.

The idea of fitting the phone box with a defibrillator, as in Swaffham Prior, was discussed. **Councillor Boreham** to investigate how this can be done.

A complaint had been received regarding the pathway leading from Ditchfield down to the village green. The width of the path has been reduced due to the grass verge growing over the pathway and flower and plants not being tidied by home owners. **Councillor Bridgeman** to assist with removing some of the overgrown grass verge and **Clerk** to write to home owners asking that they keep the pathway clear.

11. Payments

Susan Bailey – Clerk salary	£939.20
CR Contractors – mowing	£598.00
Eon – power on the green	£ 8.79
The Royal British Legion – poppy wreath	£ 17.00
PKF Littlejohn – Audit fees	£120.00

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 2nd November 2016 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: