



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

### 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	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Not Present

### 1. Forum for members of the public

A large number of residents attended the meeting to discuss the planning application. Ref – 15/01558/OUT construction of three houses and private access road.

A resident attended the meeting to discuss the cricket ground – see below.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cane declared an interest in the planning discussion and left the room.

### 3. Planning Application

Ref – 15/01558/OUT construction of three houses and private access road

Following a long and well-ordered discussion the following points will be made by the PC to the ECDC planning department.

- Access. Access to the site is limited; there is no room for vehicle to turn and inadequate parking for three, four bedroom houses.
- Layout and number of properties. The plan shows properties that are very close together, unlike surrounding properties. The height of the new properties is also an issue on the visual impact of the site and this should be reduced. Planning permission had previously been given for 2 properties on this site as a whole, 1 having already been built. Less, smaller and more affordable properties would be more appropriate.
- The sewage works cannot cope with the area at the present time with constant problems being experienced by those in the immediate area. This must be overcome before more properties can be built.
- The area is close to a very important historical site within the village and once this is built the opportunity to restore it will be gone. The village would appreciate the decision being put “on hold” for a period of time to allow a long-term vision to be established for the whole Port area.
- The PC would ask that this application goes before the Full Planning Committee.

#### **1. Forum for members of the public**

Reach cricket club would like to install a water supply, provided via the mains at Burwell Road, in order to improve the playing surface of the square. The PC would like to pipe to be laid at a deeper point than that proposed and for the pipe to be protected whilst running under the access track. There will be no cost to the PC. The PC were in full support of this project.

#### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

**Matters arising** – Following the decision of the insurance company to decline cover of the horse riding activities on the 24Acres site, Reach Riders intend to set up a structured riding club with only pre booked members being able to use the site. **Councillor Fielding** to liaise with the riding group and the insurance broker regarding this matter.

#### **5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee**

Nothing to report.

The previous decision to match any fundraising within the village will be reviewed.

#### **5 (2) County Councillor's Report**

Further consideration of the proposed business plan for 2016/17 through the Committees has dominated work at the County Council in January. The proposals will be debated at Full Council on 16th February with a view to setting a balanced budget. Some of the original proposals have been modified, including re-instating funding for school crossing patrols and leaving street lights on until 2.00am (rather than turning them off at midnight as originally proposed). The Children and Young People Committee agreed to re-instate funding to help the most-disadvantaged pupils with post-16 home to school transport, keep 2 assistant managers in localities, and not reduce the budget for self-directed funding for disabled children. General Purposes Committee voted to not levy an additional 2% on Council Tax for adult social care, so the current proposed budget includes a rise in Council tax of 2% rather than the maximum of 4% prior to triggering a referendum.

The Children and Young People Committee also considered the proposed sponsorship of Netherhall School by the Bottisham Multi Academy Trust. BMAT has been assisting Netherhall for the past 18 months and has made considerable progress. A projected deficit has been identified for the 2016/17 year owing to low pupil numbers. The Committee voted unanimously to underwrite the proposed deficit (up to a maximum of £150,000).

An announcement is expected shortly that the police will be taking up some office space in Burwell Library. More details will follow once known.

#### **5 (3) District Councillor's Report**

The construction of Ely's new cinema commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. and should be completed by the end of 2016. Cambridge has 5.3 million visitors per year generating £583 million income. "Visit Cambridge and beyond" has been set up to encourage visitors to the rest of the area. Last year Ely had 230,000 visitors generating £4 million. We are hoping to increase those figures this year.

The winter weather has increased the number of pot holes; we must try to make sure these are repaired.

Burwell School recycling site has been closed as the school needed the area of extra parking. I am working to try and find a replacement site in the area.

We have council by-elections in Bottisham and Sutton wards in February. So the council is in Purdah.

Swaffham Bulbeck Post office and stores has extended and will be having an official opening on 13<sup>th</sup> February at 11am.

#### **5 (4) Financial Report**

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation.

#### **5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings**

There were none.

#### **5 (6) Play Spaces**

Councillor Alderson has arranged for the two old small goal posts to be removed and recycled.

A meeting is arranged to discuss fundraising for improvement to the playground equipment.

The play area gate will very soon need replacing.

There had been a nasty accident on the swings on the green. The child involved was shocked but fine.

Councillor Cane had spoken to the parents who stated that the accident was entirely due to the wrong use of the swings and not due to any fault with the equipment. **Councillor Baldwin** to write an article for the village magazine reminding children to use the play equipment safely and correctly.

A complaint had been received regarding the hedge and bin near to the swings on the green. **Clerk** to contact the resident to ask that the hedge be cut back and also to request that the bin is regularly emptied by ECDC.

#### **5 (7) Rights of Way**

Nothing to report.

#### **5 (8) Village Centre**

Maintenance/Building. GR had met with Veolia and the red plastic chairs had been removed by them. A meeting had been held between GR, Simon Rogers, St Mary's churchwarden, and Collaboration 23 the building company asked to repair the walls alongside Church and next to VC and the Bridgeman property. RK was asked to clear the walls of ivy. The work would commence in the New Year with the Church requesting to share the £2000 cost of the Church wall. New quotes would be obtained for replacement of concrete and tarmac at the side and rear of VC. Since there were no regular users of the VC, heating costs would be controlled by thermostat set at a slightly lower setting.

Pre-school update. GR, HL and SE had met with the current manager of Montessori who, subject to registration, hoped to set up a satellite nursery at the VC in the new year running from 9am - 1pm. The Manager of the Montessori School outlined her willingness to fully co-operate with the VC Committee in providing a safe and happy environment for young children from Reach and surrounding villages.

#### **5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report**

Approximately 200 trees and shrubs had been planted with much appreciated help from residents.

A meeting of all the 24Acres committee members will be arranged.

A meeting will also be arranged with the Forestry Commission representative to ensure we are making the correct progress.

Councillor Thomas requested to spend a small amount on maintenance for the Orchard.

#### **5 (10) Friends of Reach Wood**

Nothing to report.

### **6 Information Items/AOB**

A proposal was put forward to join a countrywide event of lighting a beacon within the village, on 21<sup>st</sup> April, to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The proposal was accepted and the Event Committee will take on the organising of this event at no cost to the PC. **Councillor Baldwin** to provide full details at the next meeting.

A resident had asked for the hedge at the Devils Dyke carpark to be cut back. **Clerk** to arrange.

A premium increase had been received to cover the increased valuation for the War Memorial. **Clerk** to consult with the insurance broker on insuring for a lesser value.

## 11. Payments

Susan Bailey – postage	£ 6.48
BHT Nurseries – 24Acres replacement planting	£ 188.17
ECDC – dog mess stickers	£ 12.00
Glasdon UK – Dog mess bins	£ 719.68
E.on – power on the green usage	£ 30.48
Balfour Beatty – streetlight maintenance contract	£ 349.28
David Parr – power on the green installation	£1639.29
Manchetts - power on the green installation	£ 979.09

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

Chairman:

Date: