



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 2nd March 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	Present

1. Forum for members of the public

A number of residents attended the meeting to discuss the planning applications - 15/01558/OUT and 16/00130/FUL.

A resident attended the meeting to discuss the mowing of the village green.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cane declared an interest in the planning discussion 15/01558/OUT and left the room during the discussion.

Councillors Ward & Aves declared an interest in the planning discussion 16/00130/FUL and sat with the residents during the discussion.

3. Planning Application

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

The PC would like to thank the applicant for revising the application following the previous comments received. However, traffic will still increase and impact this small lane.

Following the discussion the PC considered the points made and other comments received prior to the meeting. The following points will be made by the PC to the ECDC planning department.

The PC voted 4 to 2 in favour of this development under the following conditions.

- Although reduced in number, the houses are still very large for the plot. Smaller houses would be preferred. Although their height has been reduced on the plan, the visual intrusion and impact of such large houses will still be considerable. The PC consider this aspect to be of high importance and ask for special consideration to be given to this matter. The PC requests a planning condition that the visual intrusion caused by these dwellings be reduced as far as possible.
- The building plot is part of a historical area within the village and the PC would like it to be a planning condition that a full archaeological survey is carried out prior to the build.

- It is understood that Anglia Water are in consultation with planning regarding this application, as there is presently a regular problem in the area. The PC would like it to be a condition of the planning consent that these problems are rectified prior to any building. And that assurance is given that the new properties will not create additional problems.
- The PC is aware that a section 52 agreement covers this plot and would like clarification as to its validity.
- The PC would ask that this application goes before the Full Planning Committee.

Planning Application - 16/00130/FUL.

Another discussion took place; the following points will be made by the PC to the ECDC planning department.

- The Parish Council is very concerned that the site is outside the development envelope. The Campaign to protect rural England states that development envelopes are in place to protect countryside, Drovers and village settings. The Parish Council believes that this still stands for this site. Walkers coming down from Reach wood or walking along Blackberry Drove way would have their view of open countryside obscured by a large dwelling.
- It is isolated from the main village which goes against National Planning policy.
- The Parish Council is concerned that this will set a precedent for further, similar building around the village.
- In July 2015 the previous owner of the land was told by Oliver Cook, Housing development and enabling officer that he could not be positive about the suitability of this site for residential development due to the location and rural character of the site. The site is not considered to be well related to the village, it would be viewed as an isolated site from the existing built form of the village. The character and nature of this part of Reach is clearly countryside, and therefore such a build would harm the character, setting and surrounding countryside given the rural nature and appearance of the site.
- The PC would ask that this application is refused. And that if approval is being considered the application goes before the Full Planning Committee.

Planning Application - 16/00173/FUL revised

The PC had no comment to make.

1. Forum for members of the public

A resident attended the meeting to complain about the length of the grass on the Village Green. **Clerk** to ask the contractor to cut the Green as soon as possible. The mowing of the Green will be monitored. The PC will check each Feb. to see if an additional cut is required.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

5 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

The previous decision to match any fundraising within the village will be no longer stand.

5 (2) County Councillor's Report

Full Council met on 16th February to consider a number of items. The first substantive are being the budget for the coming year. The day started with group meetings at 09.30, with Council starting at 10.30. The Business Plan/Budget debate started at 10.50, with the various political groups stating their positions. The Conservative Group proposed the balanced budget which had been drawn up over recent months through the cross-party Committee system, predicated on a 1.99% Council Tax increase. Labour, Lib Dems and Independent groups proposed a 4% increase and UKIP proposed a Council Tax freeze. No position reached a majority vote, so the Chairman adjourned the meeting and negotiations commenced. To cut a (very) long

story short, at 21.45 a majority position was agreed with the Conservative and Independent Groups (and 2 members of UKIP) securing a majority for a 2% Council Tax increase dedicated to Adult Social Care.

The Children and Young People Committee met and agreed a policy that CCC should welcome applications from all potential sponsors to run new schools in the County, including from Faith Groups. Other items agreed included: further work to mutualise the work of the Multi-Systemic Therapy Service; agree a new policy regarding provision of early year's education and childcare; pursue negotiations for the provision of a new Secondary School in Wisbech; and a new strategy regarding Early Help services.

Constitution and Ethics Committee also met in February. Amongst other issues, the Committee agreed to change the timing for Full Council meetings, so that they start at 13.30 in future; and agreed that the current practice of oral questions at Council should be replaced with written questions.

I also chaired a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board and attended a meeting regarding the commissioning of health services for 0-19 year olds in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England published the final recommendations for County Council divisions for the 2017 elections. This will see Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior merge into a 2 Member division with Fordham villages and Soham South.

5 (3) District Councillor's Report

At our full council meeting on 25th Feb. we approved this year's budget. The total Band D council tax as follows – Reach £1,614.99, Swaffham Bulbeck £1,614.99 & Swaffham Prior £1,603.02

ECDC has been awarded £120,000 rural grant by central government. As the council has achieved a balanced budget this year without this grant, it has been decided to divide it up between 41 parishes. £2,926 per parish. It will be administered by the Commercial Services Committee. It is not proposed to give it directly to the parish councils, but to any provable needy cause. The proposal will probably be that the local council member will be involved in any funding applications. Ely, Littleport, Burwell and Soham will not be awarded any of this funding as they already receive high levels of CIL.

5 (4) Financial Report

The Parish Council remains in a financially stable situation. Yearly woodland funding had been received for the 24Acres.

5 (5) Parish Council Members Meetings

Councillors Ward and Cane attended the Local Plan seminar, which both found very useful. The development of proposed sites, local envelopes and neighbourhood plans were discussed.

5 (6) Play Spaces

A proposal is being put together for improvements to the play area and ideas for new equipment and areas are being discussed, including equipment for older children/adults.

5 (7) Rights of Way

A resident had complained to CCC with regard to the state of byway 11 by the 24Acres. CCC are unable to spend any more money on this at present.

5 (8) Village Centre

January's minutes had been received, not comments were made.

5 (9) 24Acres Committee Report

A complaint had been received regarding horse riding on & near the cricket pitch. A resident had been spoken to and asked to stop using the small gate. A discussion took place regarding where horses should ride in the 24Acres, it was agreed that they could use the paths to go to the riding area and to get through the 24Acres to the culvert to connect to the NT land.

5 (10) Friends of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

6 The Village Green

A complaint had been received regarding the power point in the middle of the green. The complaint was that it is dangerous and looks a mess. A plan is in place to build up the earth around the plate, damaged by the installation, and this will be seeded at the correct time of year. It is hoped that once this has grown and been mown with the rest of the green that there will be visual improvements. New astroturf will also be laid. The PC will monitor the area, and will also monitor usage of this power point to ensure that it is needed in this position.

7 Email communication with residents

It was proposed and agreed that the PC should be able to communicate directly by email with those residents who would like to. **Clerk** to send out an email via the village email system asking for residents who would like to join this scheme, to contact the Clerk.

8 Mowing contract

The PC are happy with the service of the present contractor. Prices for the next financial year had not yet been received. The 24Acres orchard will only be cut on request and that the paths through the wood should be cut as requested/instructed by Nick Acklam. **Clerk** to ensure the contractor liaises with the 24Acres committee. The PC will check each Feb. to see if an additional cut of the green is required.

9 The Queens birthday beacon

Councillor Baldwin gave a short summary of an event that will take place on 21st April to involve the lighting of a beacon on the green and the possible burying of a time capsule. **Councillor Baldwin** to confirm with the insurance company that cover will be in place for this event. The PC support this event but questioned the cost of the time capsule and as to whether there is time to arrange its contents. **Councillor Baldwin** to discuss with the Events Team.

10 War memorial Insurance

This item will be discussed at the next meeting as answers from the insurance company had not been received.

11 Information Items/AOB

A resident had asked that the PC cut back their front hedge & trees. Following discussion the PC conclude that unless proved otherwise front boundaries belonged to the home owner. **Clerk** to inform the resident.

A resident had complained about a large amount of rubble being dumped in the ditch on byway 11 at the lode/Hythe end. **Councillor Fielding** to inform CCC.

The dog mess bin by the end of Clunch Pit Lane had been complained about. The resident would like it to be further along Clunch Pit Lane. Clerk had explained that the bins need to be road side to allow ECDC to empty them.

11. Payments

CR Contractors – Hedge cutting	£60.00
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The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday 6th April 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: