



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st February 2017

Attendance

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

Local Plan Meeting

Prior to the PC meeting a village meeting was held to discuss the new draft Local Plan. Reach remains a 'small village' within the local plan however there is to be significant building in neighbouring villages, approaching 600 new homes and an employment area on the Reach Road, Burwell. Concern was raised regarding the local infrastructure including access into Cambridge city centre and the increased traffic through the village should it be used as a 'rat run'. **Councillor Cane and Ward** to compile a response to ECDC from the village and the PC.

1. **Apologies for absence** – received and approved.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Baldwin declared an interest in the Reach Fair discussion and Councillor Fielding declared an interest in the National Trust discussion.

Forum for Members of the Public

There were none.

3. **Martin Lester, National Trust**

Martin Lester from the National Trust attended the meeting to discuss the changing and gating of access near to Reach Lode Bridge. This is to allow cattle to move freely between two fields. The NT need to allow the cattle to roam as part of their land management plans. Gates will be erected to allow people, bikes and horses to cross where the fields join. Many local residents are unhappy with this gating, particularly horse riders who stated that they will be unable to use this crossing point should this go ahead. Horse riders stated that the gates and the cattle are a danger to horses, because horses are easily spooked, and that they will not take the risk of going that way. Riders were upset as this has been a permissive route for decades and is highly valued. Martin stated that this was unfortunate and that the NT worked hard to ensure access for the public to its land but that it had an obligation to its land management program.

An idea was put forward that Straight Drove be improved and then riders maybe able to use this route. The PC and Swaffham Prior PC will talk to CCC to discuss the repair of this byway to reinstate access via Straight Drove and to investigate Straight Drove being made into a "restricted" byway.

4 Planning – 17/00029/OUT

The plans and a model of this build were viewed. The PC are content with the plans. **Clerk** to inform ECDC. Notice of a tree preservation order had been received from ECDC, for an area of land alongside the Burwell Road. This will be in place for 6 months. The PC supports this order but noted that some pruning work is required on these trees for safety reasons **Clerk** to inform ECDC.

5. Reach Fair

The Reach Fair document had been amended and was approved by the PC. **Councillor Cane** to send to the Events Team for their approval. **Councillor Baldwin** will update the PC on the Fair progress.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Matters arising

Discussion continued regarding The Dykes End pub and the PCs responsibilities to the village regarding the lease of the pub and the assurance that it be kept as a fully functioning pub. As part of the lease the PC should ensure that the building is kept in a good & substantial state of repair. **Clerk** to arrange for a professional body to inspect the building to confirm that the structure/condition/safety of the building is up to standard and that adequate insurance cover is in place.

7 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund

The new grant fund document was reviewed and will be updated prior to publication. **Clerk** to arrange for the Amenity Fund monies to be transferred by cheque to the PC's bank account prior to receiving the Reach Fair 2016 payment from the Village Centre.

7(2) County Councillor's Report

General Purposes Committee met to discuss the proposed Business Plan/Budget for the next four years. The political groups at the County Council came to the meeting with their stance on Council Tax rates for 2017/18 clearly defined:

- Labour – 3% increase on Council Tax and 2% increase for Adult Social Care;
- Liberal Democrat – 2% on Council Tax and 2% for Adult Social Care;
- Conservative – 0% on Council Tax and 2% for Adult Social Care;
- UKIP – 0% on Council Tax and 0% for Adult Social Care.

After a long, and at times heated, debate no agreement was reached on a budget paper to be presented to Full Council.

Full Council meets on 14th February to debate the Budget and Business Plan. With no agreed plan to present to Council I am expecting that the meeting will exceed the 12 hours it took to agree a balanced budget at the 2016 meeting.

7(3) District Councillor's Report

New Ely Cinema

During January, we had a site visit of the new 6 screen cinema on the Ely bypass. It is nearing completion but will not open until the A142 underpass is completed, which should be this Spring. The underpass will enable cyclists and pedestrians access to the site without the need to cross the A142.

Also in January, I attended a full council meeting, a Commercial Services Committee meeting, and a budget seminar meeting.

I have recently inspected all of the 16 kerbside grit salt bins in the ward. They were all full or mainly full. The bins are for our residents to keep the roads clear of ice.

I am working to solve problems that two local residents have with Sanctuary Housing. My efforts aren't helped by the fact that very often their case officer leaves the company and the case is put back on the shelf to be dealt with by someone else.

Sanctuary Housing certainly needs to sharpen up their act. The big issue this next year should be affordable housing, with the emphasis being on Community Land Trust Housing – local houses for local people.

The Ely leisure centre work has started this week and is expected to be completed by April 2018.

7(4) Financial Report

The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

7(5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were none.

7(6) Play Spaces

The new playground plans continue to develop. Children at the nursery group & at Swaffham Prior primary school are to be asked for their 'wishes' for the new playground. A report will be provided.

7(7) Rights of Way

There have again been reports of horses in Reach Wood. Residents and riders are asked to please report any riding in the wood to Councillor Fielding with as much detail of rider and horse as possible.

7(8) 24Acres Committee Report

There had been a successful planting of trees in the unplanted areas. The wassailing event went very well.

7(9) Friends of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

7(10) Local Plan

As above.

8 Approval of NALC financial regulations

These were approved with the following changes, that there will be no need for any petty cash. A quarterly bank reconciliation will be produced by the Clerk, and approved by Councillor Boreham for a one year period.

9 Cemetery path

Three quotes had been received for the new path at the cemetery. A quote was approved; **Clerk** to inform the successful contractor. Complaints had also been received regarding Muntjac in the cemetery destroying plants and flowers. **Clerk** to get quotes for fencing.

10 Streetlight Update

The PC have received an updated quote to include the painting and bulb replacement of the PC owned heritage lights along Fair Green. This was approved. **Clerk** to inform BB.

11 IDB – Reach Lode

The IDB would like a site meeting to discuss the issues with the lode. **Councillor Ward and Boreham** to arrange. **Clerk** to contact EA to reiterate the PCs feelings regarding the adding of Reach Lode to its capital works program for next year.

12 Information Items/AOB

The application to the British Heart Foundation for a free defibrillator had been successful. Following discussion it was felt that the best location, it must be an unlocked public place, for this would be the wall of the Village Centre a weather proof box maybe required. **Clerk** to contact the village Centre regarding this.

Anglia Water have unfortunately decided not to allow Reach Village to use their land at The Hythe. Councillor Boreham is still trying to establish why this decision had been made follow such positive previous conversations. A letter of explanation has been requested.

An amount of Reach village books have been passed to the Clerk. These will be advertised and sold with funds being added to the Reach Parish Council Grant Fund, **Clerk** to arrange. Additionally a number of Royal commemorative mugs had been received. The PC felt these would have no value and they will be passed to the Events Team for use at Reach Fair.

13 Payments

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| Eon – power on the green | £ 25.45 |
| BHT Nursery – 24Acres planting | £ 158.28 |
| D-Branch – playground gate replacement | £ 110.00 |
| D Thomas – Wassailing Event | £ 159.47 |

The date of the **next meeting** will be Wednesday **1st March 2017 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: