



Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5th April 2017

Attendance

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

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

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Forum for Members of the Public**

There were none.

4 **Planning**

There were no applications.

7(2) **County Councillor's Report**

Full Council met on 28th March for the final Council meeting prior to the County Council elections on 4th May. The closeness of the meeting to the election was apparent with national policies dominating debate. Council also approved the publication of the annual pay statement for officers and confirmed arrangements for the Local Government Pension scheme.

General Purposes Committee met to discuss a number of issues. As well as the usual finance and performance reports the Committee agreed to: fund two transformation projects relating to adult social care; proceed with a capital project to create a new arts establishment together with the Arts Council and others; and approved a Corporate Energy Strategy and a Community Resilience strategy.

Children and Young People's Committee also met in March. Committee agreed a number of items including: future governance arrangements for Cambridgeshire Culture; the future make up for educational provision in Gamlingay; and arrangements for the extension of child care provision from 15 hours to 30 hours in line with national provisions.

I chaired a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board and attended a meeting of the Children's Change Programme Board. I also spent 2 days interviewing candidates to sit on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Councillor Brown stated that this would be his last meeting as County councillor, as he is not standing in the May election. He said what a pleasure it had been working on behalf of the Reach residents and the PC thanked him for this work over the many years he had held the position.

5. Reach Fair

A single risk assessment with 3 parts has been used; this has been sent to ECDC for approval. Financially the Fair preparations are running to budget.

It is intended that the cycle parking will be improved. In previous years there has been an issue with cycles and the cemetery. The ET will padlock the cemetery this year, put up signs and the key will be available at the information stand. An email will be sent informing the village of this.

The ET have, again due to previous issues, agreed to remove and correctly replace the goal posts on the playing field.

Discussions are ongoing between the ET and the Village centre committee regarding the transfer and storage of all 'Fair' items. All 'Fair' items are to be transferred free of charge. There are tents of various sizes for which £1000 is requested. A fee of £15 per week has been proposed for the storage.

Other possible storage solutions will be investigated. **Clerk** to check cost and planning requirements for a container within the village.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Councillor Boreham reported that he and Councillor Ward had had a meeting with Paul Separovic from the Environment Agency on Friday 3rd March about the dredging of silt from the lode. They took to the water on the EA launch and used sonar to record water depths up as far as Reach Lode Bridge. Down towards to The Hythe the water depth was as low as 25cm. It seems that whilst the EA is sympathetic, they claim that Reach lode is low priority and that they do not have the resources to immediately assist. However, they mentioned using Reach Lode for an experimental approach where silt is pumped directly from the bed, de-watered and placed on the bank. Councillor Ward tried very hard to get Paul Separovic to commit to push this issue up the EA agenda, but he was somewhat non-committal. **Clerk** to write a letter of thanks to Mr Separovic for the visit; and also to reiterate the point that there is an issue with their standard of service under the pylons and down to the Hythe. To also confirm that the PC are very interested in trialling the suction pump method.

A letter from the dog warden has been sent to the resident concerned. If any future events are reported full details need to be recorded as evidence should the issue need to be taken further.

7 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund

The Village Centre have agreed to pay the money from the 2016 fair proceeds. The amount is to be confirmed once the possibility of a previous over payment is clarified.

7(3) District Councillor's Report

Last month I attended the Commercial Services Committees of which I am a member.

We dealt with things such as Grants to Voluntary Organisations. These included-

1) Citizens Advice Newmarket, where the most frequent issues raised continue to be debt and welfare benefits. Various local charities in Newmarket and the surrounding area have recently lost funding from other external sources and there is anxiety that additional demand for services will be placed on Citizens Advice Newmarket.

2) Citizens Advice Rural Cambs has seen an increased demand for all its advice services for debt. Pay day loans are being utilised more and more as some people are not able to manage their money more efficiently in difficult times.

3) Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs (VCAEC) From October 2016 ceased receiving funding from Cambridgeshire County Council for Community and Voluntary Sector infrastructure support (£15,000) and from the Cambridgeshire Commissioning Group for promoting the health sector (£5000.00) Our grants to these three organisations help them to undertake their very important work.

We also dealt with some items under the heading of Tourism and Town Centres Services.

These included:

a) To extend Angel Drove (Ely) Car Park to provide 120 extra parking spaces to meet the needs of commuters. It already has 214 spaces that are full every day.

b) To expand the programme of events and tours available at Oliver Cromwell's House in order to increase income levels by £2500.00

I also attended a seminar to discuss the possible restructuring of EDCs committees. Locally, I have been involved in two planning issues and one problem between Sanctuary Housing and one of its tenants.

7(4) Financial Report

The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

7(5) Parish Council Members Meetings

There were none, other than those reported elsewhere within this report.

7(6) Play Spaces

The bridge has now been repaired.

7(7) Rights of Way

More complaints had been received regarding dog poo. One, about poo along the top of the lode bank. The lode bank is private land and therefore there is little the PC can do except highlight the problem and try and persuade owners to clear up after their dogs. **Councillor Boreham** to produce a map of the village for 'hotspot' areas to be highlighted and published in the village magazine.

The other, on the permissive bridleway by Churchfield Farm. Not only poo left on the pathway but also dog owner's bag up the poo and either leave it hanging in the hedge or throw it over into the garden. Dog poo bins have been suggested at each end of the permissive path. **Clerk** to check this is possible and find out costs.

7(8) 24Acres Committee Report

Nothing to report.

7(9) Friends of Reach Wood

Nothing to report.

7(10) Local Plan

Nothing to report.

8 Straight Drove

Councillor Fielding has spoken to the Swaffham PC chair about the possibility of restricting Straight Drove: he would like a formal letter to be sent to the Clerk of Swaffham Prior PC asking for its support, Clerk to send. He has already discussed this with SP PC, and only one councillor was against. He feels that it is likely that SP PC will not be against the proposal, but will not be prepared to contribute financially. Once he has our letter, he will put it on the agenda for their next meeting.

The NT will not financially help but would help repair the Drove. Although the drove is in the Swaffham Prior parish the improvements would mostly benefit Reach residents.

Councillor Aves to show on a map the areas where vehicle access is required.

Discussion will continue at a future meeting once more information has been received.

9 May Meeting

The May PC meeting will be held on Thursday 11th May at 7pm, prior to the Annual Parish meeting at 7.30pm

10 Insurance

The PC enters its final year of a 3 year agreement with our present supplier. The PC agreed to enter another 3 year agreement for an additional 5% discount as they are very happy with the advice and service the company supplies.

11 Information Items/AOB

Defibrillator The Village Centre have agreed for the defibrillator to be located on the side of the village centre nearest to the church. **Clerk** to contact the committee to arrange for this to be installed prior to Reach Fair.

Streetlights. Yet again the PC contact at BB regarding the streetlights has left. The Clerk has contacted CCC and asked for urgent contact regarding this matter. **Clerk** to collate an email trail regarding this matter to highlight the issue it has become.

Burning of waste. A complaint had been received concerning the burning of toxic waste in the lower part of the village. This was carried out after dark and gave off particularly unpleasant fumes. A notice will be put in the next issue of the village magazine and the situation monitored. Should any further incidence happen the Environment agency will be contacted.

A letter had been received questioning the PC discussions regarding the Pub. The PC clarified that this was only due to its legal requirement to do so as lease holder of the property. **Councillor Cane** to contact the complainant to clarify.

The PC have received a complaint regarding the amount of litter on the footpaths around the village, along with the suggestion of a village litter picking event. **Clerk** to investigate.

13 **Payments**

E.on – power on the green	£8.79
CCC – LHI payment	£97.95
Clerk Salary	£939.20
Anglia Surfacing – cemetery footpath	£3024
CR Contracting – mowing contract	£201.50
Came & Co. – insurance	£716.21

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.00pm**, prior to the Annual Parish Meeting. 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: