



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Michael Aves	Councillor	Not Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

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

2. **Declaration of interests**

Councillors Fielding and Ward declared an interest in the planning application 17/01010/FUL

3. **Planning Applications**

17/00967OUT – following discussion and review of the plans, the PC had no objections to this application. The PC feels that it is in keeping with the results of the local plan consultation with Reach residence, that is that smaller, more affordable housing is required.

17/01010/FUL – The PC had no comment to make.

The Clerk noted that a new planning application had been put in for industrial use on the Reach Road in the Burwell Parish. **Councillors** to look at the application and agree on any comments required.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

5 (1) **Parish Council Grant Fund**

The Village Centre have still not transferred the funds due from Reach Fair 2016 to the Grant Fund. **Clerk** to contact the new Treasurer to clarify the situation.

The new playground team have asked for a commitment of £10,000 for the playground. This was agreed in principle with the funds to come from both the PC and the Grant Fund subject to affordability at the time.

Councillor Cane discussed the advantages of the Parish Council Grant Fund becoming a charity and will bring more details to the next meeting. **Clerk** to obtain, from the Events Team, any paperwork they have produced with regard to becoming a charity.

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

A full report was not supplied, the following points were supplied.

1. Highways - the officer has now been appointed and as soon as I am informed that they are available to contact I will request that they come to a meeting of Reach PC to discuss the issues raised last time.
2. Street Lighting - I have responded to an email chain regarding the street lighting changes and have expressed my disappointment in the lack of progress.
3. General County Council - I have been appointed Chairman of the Commercial and

Investments committee which is looking to explore ways to generate income and reduce unnecessary expenditure, with particular focus on council assets. By doing this we will hopefully be able to continue to provide services without increasing tax.

Councillor Fielding was frustrated that she was still not getting any response from Karen Champion at CCC regarding local byways.

**Clerk** to contact Councillor Schumann regarding the advertised closure of the Burwell Road to ask for confirmation that the buses, both public and school, would still run and to ask why the Parish Council had not been informed of this closure.

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

James Palmer, the District Councils group leader, won the election to be the Mayor of the new combined authority. This meant that he had to resign his council seat.

The new council group leader is Cllr Charles Roberts and the new council deputy leader is Cllr Anna Bailey.

There have also been changes to the council's civic leadership.

The new Council Chairman is Cllr Peter Cresswell and the new Deputy Chairman is Cllr Liz Every.

I have had a full council meeting last month and two committee meetings, plus two group meetings. Also on July 1st I attended an away day in Newmarket. This is where our controlling Conservative group has an all-day meeting with the Council's Chief Executive and our leading officers to discuss our Corporate Plan covering the period 2015-2019.

It sets out our objectives. These are:

- Delivering a financially sound and well managed council
- Genuinely affordable housing
- A fantastic place to live
- Improving local transport
- New jobs and funding

We have two of these away days a year to update our Corporate Plan.

If anyone is travelling to Ely by the A142 please be aware that there can be traffic delays at Stuntney due to construction work on the new Ely by-pass.

Councillor Allen was asked about how ECDC were helping to deliver affordable housing. **Councillor Allen** to find out the percentage of affordable housing local CLTs are delivering.

### **5(4) Financial Reports**

Nothing to report. The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

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

Councillor Boreham had had a meeting with Connecting Cambridgeshire regarding the broadband within the village. Some of the poles have bare wires which are subject to the elements and affect the service. It was agreed that this is not up to standard and will be highlighted to Open Reach. A survey had established that the quality of service is patchy around the village from very good to awful, and that parts of the Burwell Road get no fibre service at all. A response from Connecting Cambridgeshire is awaited.

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

The annual inspection had taken place. **Councillor Ward** to look over the report and the playground and to report back on any urgent matters.

A consultation event had taken place at the weekend and a report will follow. It was noted also, that residents were concerned that a too big park would attract many families from out of the village; residents were keen to avoid this.

It was agreed that any final plan would be circulated around the village for comment.

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

Councillor Fielding continues to have trouble contacting CCC. She will continue to call and email.

### **5(8) 24Acres Committee Report**

Sadly The National Trust have declined to improve or develop their portion of Reach 24 at this

time due to staffing and funding constraints. It would be beneficial to users of the 24Acres if a pathway was cut down to the culvert at the far side of the site. **Clerk** to request a price and add this to the mowing schedule.

#### **5(9) Friends of Reach Wood**

There is still an ongoing issue with the Woodland Trust and their funding of measures to control the spread of ragwort. Their regular budget for controlling it was cut this year. However the WT have a statutory obligation to control the Ragwort. **Councillor Boreham** will make an application for emergency funding to get them to act.

#### **5(10) Local Plan**

Nothing to report.

#### **6 New Councillor**

The PC approved the application from Alex de Giorgio-Miller to join the PC, **Clerk** to complete the required paperwork. The PC still has one vacancy.

#### **7 Parish Council Website and Transparency code requirements**

The transparency code requires that the PC continually publishes its accounts, minutes, agendas etc. To allow the PC to abide by this code the PC would like its own website separate from the village site purely for PC business. The PC would also like each councillor to have their own PC email address. There are grants available to cover the cost of setting up such a site. **Clerk** to investigate costs and apply for the grant.

#### **8 Cemetery**

The trees in the cemetery need to be cut back to allow easier access along the foot path. **Clerk** to organise. There has been a long running issue with fencing around the cemetery. The Clerk has struggled with obtaining quotes for this work, with contractor repeatedly failing to supply the quotes requested. The PC therefore accepted the quote as supplied. **Clerk** to arrange for this work to be completed as soon as possible.

#### **9 August Meeting**

The August PC meeting will only be held should an important issue arise. In this case the meeting will only discuss the said issue.

#### **10 Information Items/AOB**

It has been agreed with the Village centre that a sign can be put up to show where the defibrillator is situated. **Councillor Boreham** to arrange.

The PC had received an email from George Gibson about the Dykes End Pub – this was noted by the PC and CC was asked to respond on behalf of the PC.

#### **15 Payments**

S Bailey – Salary	£948.56
S Bailey – postage	£ 15.52
CR Contracting – mowing	£414.50
E.On – Power on the green	£ 8.51
Fenland Leisure – playground inspection	£120.00

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm** unless otherwise required. 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: