



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### Attendance

Charlotte Cane	Chair	Present
Hilary Fielding	Vice Chair	Present
Steve Boreham	Councillor	Present
Alex de Giorgio-Miller	Councillor	Present
Diana Ward	Councillor	Present
Susan Bailey	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
Joshua Schumann	County Councillor	Not Present

Ian Drewar CAPALC attended the meeting to speak about the new Transparency Code. The Transparency code is a new frame work all councils need to follow. The under £25,000 code applies to Reach PC. The Transparency code required the PC to keep an up to date a website and publish all documentation; minutes, agenda, spending etc. for a period of at least 12months. Government funding is available to assist with this. The PC has until next year to have this all in place.

Additionally, next year, there is to be new legislation on the handling of communications and data protection. Parish councillors should also have email accounts separate from there private accounts. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Forum for members of the public.

Although there were members of the public present there were no issues raised.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

There were none.

#### 2. Declaration of interests

Councillor Cane declared an interest in the CCC discussion.

#### 3. Co-option of new Councillors

The PC approved the application from Andrew Trump to join the PC, Clerk to complete the required paperwork.

The PC still has one vacancy which it will be able to co-opt for after the 6<sup>th</sup> October should an election not be called.

#### 4 Planning

There were no new applications. Councillor Cane clarified the situation regarding the Gas plant application in Burwell. The PC had sent comment to ECDC and contacted the agent to arrange a public meeting, this is hoped to be in early Nov. If they are able to attend the Nov. PC meeting this meeting will start at 7pm. The deadline for additional comments has been moved to 23<sup>rd</sup> November for all. The PC now have paper copies of the plans and would like to put these on show for the public. It is hope that this will be possible during Apple Day on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. **Clerk** to arrange.

## 5. Christmas Events

The PC have received risk assessments for the 2 Christmas events. The PC would like the following points to be added. During the tree decorating details of the delivery and placing of the tree need to be included. During the Christmas Eve event item 2 & 3 need to include dealing with flames in adverse weather and item 5 should include details of the installation of the scaffolding and the restriction of unauthorised people on the scaffolding. **Clerk** to inform the Events Team and also confirm details for the purchase of the tree.

## 6. County Councillor's Report

None received.

**Clerk** to contact the County Councillor to ask for regular updates from him. The PC feels strongly that input from CCC is helpful and required. It would be helpful to arrange for regular attendance at Reach PC meetings, be that bi-monthly or quarterly.

Should the Gas power plant developers be attending the next meeting the PC would very much expect the County Councillor to attend. **Clerk** to contact our County Councillor and discuss.

## 7. District Councillor's Report

During September as well as my normal Councillor duties, I also undertook two site visits.

The first was a tour of Dalham Hall Stud, which is part of the horse breeding empire of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and is managed in an immaculate fashion. It employs 700 people, has 450 staff houses, and covers an area of over 7000 acres.

As such it is an important employer in the Newmarket area.

Secondly, as a member of the Community Services Committee I attended a tour of our new Leisure Centre that is being built on the Ely bypass at Downham Road. It should be completed by April/May 2018.

It will include the following:

- An eight lane 25m swimming pool
- A learner pool with movable floor
- A 120-station gym floor
- Two activity studios
- A four-court sports hall
- A meeting room
- An outdoor all-weather sports pitch
- Free car parking

It is being built next to our new six screen cinema which is now open and proving very popular.

October's planning committee is all day, starting at 9.30am instead of 2.30pm because of the increase in planning applications it is having to deal with.

When our new Local Plan is in force things should return to normal.

## 8 Minutes of previous Meeting

Approved as correct. It was agreed that only finalised minutes should go on to the website.

## 9 (1) Parish Council Grant Fund

A grant of £400 has been requested from the Reach Riders to organise a fund raising New Year's Eve disco. The PC are very much in favour of helping with the Reach Riders Group, however it was felt that this event would not raise significant funds. The PC would like the group to put together another proposal for consideration.

**Clerk** to contact the group.

The PC had also received a letter from the Prospects Trust asking for funding for the purchase of a new truck. The PC would in principle like to contribute but would like more information regarding amounts and the time scale. **Clerk** to obtain more details.

Councillor Boreham requested £200 to arrange a CPR training day for up to 10 people. This will allow the PC to give the required feedback to the British Heart Foundation who supplied, for free, the defibrillator to the village.

### **9(2) Financial Reports**

The PC remains in a financially stable situation.

Both the Village Centre and Events team have paid the Reach fair monies which are now in the PC grant fund.

A transfer of the agreed funds from the PC £500 and the PC grant fund £850 into the streetlight reserve I was approved this will allow the calculation of final monies required from those residents who agreed to donate.

### **9(3) Parish Council Members Meetings**

Following the PC meeting on 6th September, Councillor Fielding attended the meeting in Burwell on 9th September to hear the discussion about the proposals for the gas-powered generators to be located on Reach Road. Towards the end of the meeting she addressed the floor and introduced herself as the Vice Chair of Reach Parish council. Councillor Fielding explained that Reach PC had objected to the proposal and would be supporting the "Action Group" as much as possible to try to get the planning proposal refused. This was met with general approval and gratitude.

Having been sent the "Presentation" slides by John Clarke via email, Councillor Fielding forwarded them to David Parr with a request that they be circulated on the village email, which was done almost immediately, they were also posted on the Reach Facebook page.

Councillor Boreham has put up the defibrillator sign.

Councillor Boreham had also cleared away brambles, elder and blackthorn from the Millennium tree following a resident's complaint.

Councillor Cane had attended a CAPALC catch up day. Which had led to tonight's guest speaker attending the meeting.

### **9(4) Play Spaces**

Bryan Pearson has taken on the role of organising the goal posts to be repaired and new nets to be purchased. Full details are awaited.

Spikes to deter the birds are missing from the top of the swings on the green. **Clerk** to organise getting them replaced.

### **9(5) Rights of Way**

A resident had contacted the council to discuss the narrowing of the end of the byway which meets with Great Lane /Barston Drove adjacent to Aves' farm driveway. The small trees which were planted at the edge of the byway by the previous occupants of the house nearest to the byway are now growing and causing a hazard to his larger farm machinery. There is also concern that the end of the byway is frequently used for car parking by various members of the public/residents/visitors thus reducing/preventing free access. **Clerk** to contact CCC regarding the tree and issue a note to residents regarding parking on and blocking of byways which must always be kept clear to allow access for heavy farm machinery.

The NT is planning to fence off their newly acquired field behind the mere at the end of Old Bar Drove. They are also planning on levelling the track to improve the access. Horse riders have requested that plenty of space be allowed to protect horse riders from any cattle which will graze this field in the future as there is a deep drainage ditch running parallel to the track. There is also concern that the improved access may encourage unwelcome vehicles and travellers.

It has been notice that parts of the footpath along the Swaffham Road are becoming blocked by overgrown hedges. **Clerk** to contact the residents to ask for thee hedges to be cut back from the path.

A resident also complained about the access onto the CCC land from the top of the green by the Millennium tree. Following inspection by Councillor Boreham **Clerk** to contact CCC and ask for this pathway to be cleared.

#### **9(6) 24Acres Committee Report**

Nothing to report.

#### **9(7) Friends of Reach Wood**

Ian Froggatt from the Woodland Trust has suggested a new mowing regime and ragwort control scheme whereby we would do a cut in late spring (May/ June) to bring the grass height down, and then herbicide-weed wipe the ragwort at rosette stage (July). He has had success with this on much larger fields. It is clear that the ragwort pulling isn't really having the desired effect. The PC were in agreement with this. **Councillor Boreham** to inform the WT.

#### **9(8) Local Plan**

The draft local plan is now on the ECDC website. There is no change for Reach.

#### **10 Playground update**

Further concern from residents had been received regarding the moving of the playground and also the poor state of the playing field surface.

The PC were in agreement that although the playground should be moved, as planned, due consideration and consultation with residents was required as to what should be done with the area of the present playground to stop unauthorised access to the field.

Grant applications have been put in, which in total will cover the entire cost of the scheme. ECDC have said that their grant can be used as the contributing third party component.

If all applications are successful then the PC will not need to contribute any funds. PC Funds would then be available to address the site of the old playground.

Decisions on the applications are from mid-November to mid-December. Ideally construction would start early 2018 so that it was in place before the Fair.

The PC would also like to thank and congratulate Cath Tayleur on winning 2nd prize, for the PC, of 35% matched funding in KOMPAN's Matched funding competition!

#### **11 LHI Scheme**

Councillor Cane proposed that the PC put in for a cycle path from Reach to Burwell. **Clerk** to complete the forms.

#### **12 Fees – mooring and cemetery**

Last year it was agreed that the cemetery fees would be put up 5% as is usual, except for 'Interments for persons whose age at death exceeds 12 years' and 'Exclusive right of burial' which will increase by 20% to help bring Reach fees in line with those of other local cemeteries. It was agreed that the PC should do the same again this year.

The mooring fees were not changed.

#### **13. OS maps via Parish Online**

At the CAPALC catch up day Councillor Cane had learnt about a Parish Online mapping system. Clerk had signed up for a free one month trial. **Councillor** to try out the system and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 14 Information Items/AOB

Travellers have been in the local area and on hearing of their moving on Councillor Fielding and several local residents/farmers had moved quickly to block access to land around the village. ECDC had contacted the Clerk and suggested that these measures be kept in place until we were certain that the Travellers had moved away from the area.

The Lease for the Dykes End, signed by the new tenant, had been received. However, this was not the complete lease as signed by previous tenants and was wrongly address. **Clerk** to contact the solicitors and request this is altered.

#### 15 Payments

Susan Bailey	Postage	£7.37
Susan Bailey	Clerk salary	£948.56
E.on	power on the green	£8.79
National Trust	24Acres lease	£10.00
Royal British Legion	poppy appeal	£17.00
John Reed	cemetery fencing	£588

The date of the **next meeting** will be **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 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: